

5 Privileges of Peace

By Rick Merfeld and Caught Up in Christ Ministries



Still in the Storm

Life is difficult. Whether we are knee-deep in our own crisis or helping a loved one fight their battle, we all encounter rough seas. The privilege of peace allows us to maintain a calm climate even when fighting through stormy weather. “The fool looks at the lightening, the wise man at the road that lies-illuminated-before him.”
~Elie Wiesel

Be still and know that I Am God. (Psalm 46: 10)



Diligent about Discernment

We are fed a steady diet of deception, half-truths, and outright lies. Emotions and desires cloud our judgement. Choices have consequences. The privilege of peace keeps us settled and attentive to critical thinking. Seek truth in ideas, beliefs, and positions. Consider likely outcomes to all your options to avoid the consequences of bad thinking. “A truth hurts for a little while. A lie hurts forever.” Ryan Bigge

The one who first states a case seems right, until the other comes and cross-examines. (Proverbs 18:17)



Purposeful with People

Family. Work. Neighborhood. Self. We live with, live around, and relate to people with all the characteristics we love and those we don't. We are all works in progress and also cherished by our Creator. The privilege of peace fosters our understanding that all people have been impacted by sin and need to be built-up. “Encourage people; it's the key to caring.” ~ Dan Allender

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8)



Engaged against the Enemy

When we accept the reality of God, we also acknowledge the reality of the devil. We look at the world around us and examine our own lives. We see struggles, addiction, unhealthy relationship patterns, enemies we cannot defeat. The privilege of peace allows us to be aware of and engaged against the enemy's attacks. “The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
~Jesus, the Nazorean

Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5: 8)



Patient with Progress

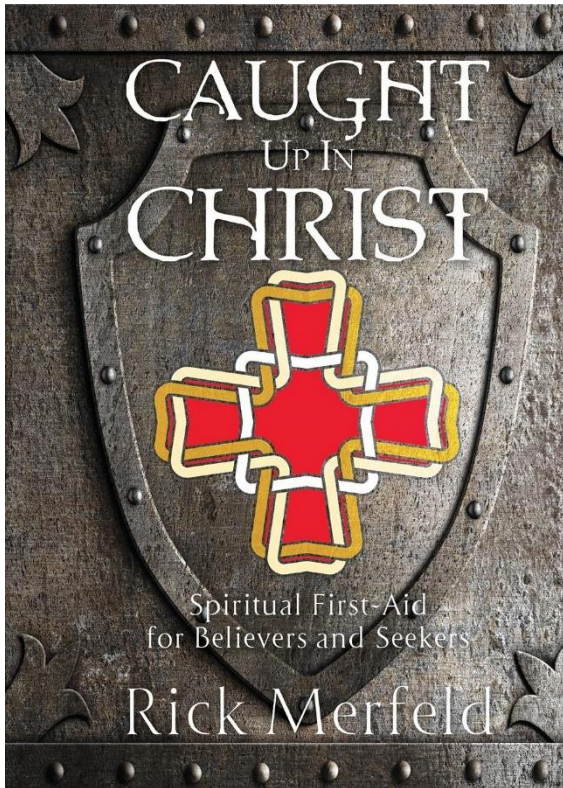
We are slow-cookers living in a microwave world. Modern technologies have made so many things faster and easier. However, personal success and goal achievement still take time. We also struggle to see how God can use present struggles to prepare us for future success. The privilege of peace keeps us mindful of the journey and faithful to the God who loves us even though sometimes in mysterious ways. “Regret weighs tons; discipline weighs ounces.” ~John M. Maxwell

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from His glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. (Col 1:11-12)

*Scripture is taken from the New Revised Standard Version.

Peace, peacefulness or peace of mind is an elusive human characteristic. The presence of or lack of peace influences how we experience the world and how the world experiences us. Peace is not found in a location, a situation, or possessions. Peace is found in a relationship with a person-Jesus, the Christ of the one, true and living God. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:17).

***The 5 Privileges of Peace are based on the following book by Rick Merfeld
Find it at <https://caughtupinchrist.org> and Amazon.com
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/53163353-caught-up-in-christ>***



Do you have a nagging sense you've been lied to?

There are many misconceptions in our world today. Truth is whatever people decide it is. You don't need God, you can become a god. Humans can fix the human heart. If we all "love" one another, the world will be wonderful and there will be peace and security for all.

Have you been wounded by these delusions? Are these and other misunderstandings about to mortally wound a friend or family member? Even if you believe in Christ, the constant noises raise questions and create doubts, making it seemingly impossible to share the Good News.

These are spiritual wounds that need spiritual first-aid!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." When we get caught up in Christ, we embrace the author of all truth. It changes the way we experience the world and the way the world experiences us! Imagine a life of inner peace, lived with a powerful partner. Reduce the outcomes

of bad thinking by adopting a Godly perspective. Envision the blessing you can be to others as you share the peace of Christ and the promise of the Gospel. Join us as we get caught up in Christ! ISBN 978-1-951561-11-6



Rick Merfeld earned a psychology degree from Luther College and a Master's Degree in Counselor Education from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He began his professional career providing mental health services for children, couples, and families. He lived and worked among college students for over 25 years before moving into an executive leadership position with a non-profit organization.

Rick grew up in a loving Catholic home and attended 12 years of Catholic education, followed by four additional years at a Christian college. His spiritual journey continued, and Rick reconfirmed his faith in Jesus Christ at the age of 38. Rick has been involved with parish leadership and speaks at Christian retreats. Rick and his wife, Dagmar, have been married for 34 years and reside in Iowa. They are parents of three adult sons and have five grandchildren. Rick enjoys time outdoors and dark chocolate.

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