

# Carriers of Peace: Living the Gospel Beyond the World's Systems (Matthew 5:9)



As we transition into this sacred season of reflection and growth, our hearts are anchored in a divine mandate that transcends the noise of our modern world. We are continuing to lean into a powerful theme that will guide our steps through the end of July: **PEACEMAKERS**.

Our foundational scripture, **Matthew 5:9**, declares: "**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD.**" This promise is not merely a suggestion for harmonious living; it is a profound revelation of our identity and our destiny. To be a peacemaker is to mirror the very character of our Heavenly Father. It is a calling to move beyond the superficial "peace" the world offers and to become true carriers of the Shalom of God: a peace that reconciles, restores, and redeems.

## **THE DIVINE CALL TO REJECT WORLDLY SYSTEMS**

We live in a culture defined by its "systems": patterns of competition, retaliation, and relentless self-promotion. From the way we interact on social media to the underlying pressures of our professional lives, the world's customs often demand that we defend our territory, prove our worth, and view others as rivals rather than sisters. However, as spirit-filled women, we are called to a higher standard.

We must consciously choose to **not get caught up in the world's systems**. The customs of this age are often rooted in fear and scarcity, but the Kingdom of God is established on the foundation of love and abundance. When we allow ourselves to be governed by worldly expectations, we lose the "saltiness" that makes us effective witnesses of Christ.

Our focus must shift from surviving the world's systems to subverting them with the peace of Christ. **WE ARE CALLED TO BE IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF IT.** This means we do not use the world's weapons of gossip, pride, or divisiveness of a volatile social media post. Instead, we put on the full armor of God and walk in a peace that surpasses all understanding.



## OUR CORE OBJECTIVES AS PEACEMAKERS

To navigate this season effectively, we have established clear spiritual milestones for every woman in our ministry. These are the non-negotiables of our current mission:

- **REJECT THE TEMPORAL:** ACTIVELY DISCONNECT FROM THE SYSTEMS OF CONFLICT, COMPARISON, AND COMPETITION THAT CHARACTERIZE THE WORLD'S CUSTOMS.
- **EMBRACE THE IDENTITY:** RECOGNIZE THAT OUR STATUS AS "SONS OF GOD" (DAUGHTERS OF THE MOST HIGH) IS CONTINGENT UPON OUR WILLINGNESS TO FACILITATE RECONCILIATION.
- **CARRY THE GOSPEL:** ENSURE THAT EVERY ENCOUNTER WE HAVE IS INFUSED WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST, THE ULTIMATE PRINCE OF PEACE.
- **NURTURE THE GIFTS:** STIR UP THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS WITHIN US TO MINISTER PEACE TO THE BROKENHEARTED AND THE DISCONNECTED.

## BECOMING CARRIERS OF THE GOSPEL EVERYWHERE WE GO

What does it mean to be a "carrier" of peace? Think of a carrier as a vessel or a conduit. We do not generate peace from our own strength; rather, we are the pipes through which the living water of Christ flows into a thirsty world.

When we step into our grocery stores, our workplaces, our schools, and our homes, we are not just citizens of New Jersey: we are ambassadors of the Kingdom of Heaven. **WE CARRY THE GOSPEL IN OUR VERY PRESENCE.**

This requires an intentionality of spirit. It means that before we enter a room, we ask the Holy Spirit to precede us. We challenge ourselves to look for opportunities to de-escalate tension, to offer a word of encouragement to the weary, and to model the grace that Christ has so freely given us. Being a carrier of peace means that the atmosphere changes simply because a daughter of God has arrived.

## NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

At the heart of the **New Jersey Church of God Women's Ministries** is a commitment to guide the next generation into God's destiny for them. We recognize that young women are currently bombarded by "customs" that prioritize image over substance and conflict over community.

Our role as seasoned believers is to **nurture and develop** these younger sisters, teaching them that their power lies not in their ability to fight for a place at the world's table, but in their calling to host others at the Lord's table. Through our leadership training and resources, we provide the tools necessary for women to lead with a "peacemaker heart."

Leadership in the Kingdom is not about authority; it is about service. When we lead as peacemakers, we create spaces where other women can discover their own gifts and callings. We **challenge** our leaders to be the first to apologize, the first to forgive, and the most consistent in prayer. This is how we build a legacy of peace that will endure long after we have finished our earthly race.



## **STRATEGIES FOR DAILY PEACEMAKING**

As we move through the coming months, we encourage you to implement these practical strategies for living as a carrier of peace:

1. **Scriptural Saturation:** Begin each day by meditating on Matthew 5:9. Allow the promise of sonship to define your interactions before you even leave your home.
2. **The Pause of Peace:** Before responding to a challenging email, a heated comment, or a difficult family situation, take a moment to "pause." Ask yourself: "Does my response carry the gospel, or does it carry the world's customs?"
3. **Active Reconciliation:** Is there a relationship in your life that is fractured? As a peacemaker, the burden of the first move often rests on us. Reach out. Extend the olive branch.
4. **Prayer for the Systems:** Instead of just complaining about the "systems" of the world, we must pray for them. Pray for the leaders of our state, our communities, and our churches, asking that the peace of God would permeate every structure.

## **OUR HIGHER CALLING AND DESTINY**

We are not merely "keeping the peace"; we are "making" it. Keeping the peace often involves avoiding conflict and suppressing the truth. **MAKING PEACE REQUIRES US TO CONFRONT THE DARKNESS WITH THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL.**

The world is waiting for the "sons of God" to be revealed. They are waiting for women who do not look like the culture, do not speak like the culture, and do not react like the culture. They are waiting for the carriers of peace.



We are honored to walk this path with you. Let us move forward, not by the world's might or power, but by the Spirit of the Lord, carrying the gospel of peace into every corner of our lives.

**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS.** That is our promise. That is our identity. That is our path to the end of July and beyond.