

Father, when I realize that *violence* and *violation* have the same roots, I understand better how careful I need to walk Your path of peace. Any time I violate another's trust, I am committing a form of violence. Make me careful to always treat others with Your respect.



Jesus, when I look at the world, I feel helpless to counteract the violence I see everywhere. But let me take the first step: I give You my own heart to change. Take out the greed and bitterness and unforgiveness I hold inside. Fill me instead with peace, goodwill, and kindness for everyone. May I, like Your cousin John, prepare the way of the Lord.



Prayers for Difficult Times  
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# Violence



*Jesus said, "Put your sword back where it belongs. All who use swords are destroyed by swords."*

Matthew 26:52 MSG

Lord make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console. To be understood, as to understand, to be love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



Jesus, You left Your peace with us. The peace You give is not like the world's. We do not need to be worried or afraid. We need never resort to violence.

By our own standards, Peter would have been perfectly justified in using his sword to defend Jesus. But Christ calls us to a different standard. One of our greatest challenges as His followers is to walk His path of peace in the midst of a violent world.

Violence bombards us from all directions. It comes at us on the news, in movies, and on our television. Violence touches our schools and our workplaces. We see it on our highways, we run into it in stores. It is evident at the national global level and it even comes into our homes.

We may think we have no part in this violence, but Jesus calls us to examine our hearts. He reminds us that if our thoughts are full of rage and hatred, then we, too, nurse the roots of violence inside our very beings. He asks us instead to become His hands and feet on this earth, spreading His peace.

Lord, I believe that if I am in Christ, I am a new creation. The old things have passed away and all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Take all violent thoughts away from me. Make me a new creature.



If I have bitter envy and self-seeking in my heart, Lord, You tell me that I am lying against Your truth. This is not Your way of doing things, but the world's. For when envy and self-seeking fill my heart, I have opened the door to confusion and violence. Your way of doing things is far different! It is based on peace and gentleness. When I do things Your way, I am willing to yield my way to another's; I am full of mercy for everyone; I do not show favoritism; and I am free of hypocrisy. The fruit of Your righteousness is sown in peace when I become Your peacemaker.

(James 3:14-18)