



## Daily Verse and Comment

### **Psalm 119:165**

(165) Great peace have those who love Your law,  
And nothing causes them to stumble.

*New King James Version*

What does "great [peace](#)" mean? "Peace" automatically suggests an absence of war, no battling, no fighting. Under temptation, a battle always rages, even if we are winning. In such a case, no peace exists, much less "great peace." As an illustration, initially, the U.S. in Iraq won every battle handily, but it was still war. The spiritual war we fight is caused by temptation from [Satan](#), our human nature, and [the world](#). Remove temptation, and war stops. What remains is great peace.

How do we achieve not just peace, but "great peace"? The last half of [Psalm 119:165](#) tells us: "*nothing* causes them to stumble." What causes a human to stumble? Temptation! This means that we have to be sheltered from it. The *American Standard Version* renders this phrase, "they have no occasion of stumbling," *Young's Literal Translation* puts it as "they have no stumbling-block," and the *Rotherham's Emphasized Bible* reads, "nothing to make them stumble." All of these renderings mean that not even the opportunity to stumble is presented. Other scriptures mention protection from stumbling:

[Psalm 121:3](#) (NLT): He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber.

[1 John 2:10](#) : He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

**Jude 24** : Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. . . .

God through the gift of His Holy Spirit is the only power in the universe that can accomplish such a feat. If God does not place that shield around us, we have no hope of success. Alone, we are powerless in the face of temptation. We overcome it not by our strength, but by God's power, the shield of faith (I John 5:4) given to us as His gift (Ephesians 2:8). It is our only sure defense.

To acknowledge God and to pray always are to be in alignment with one of Christ's most basic principles, a principle found in Matthew 6:33—to "seek first the kingdom of God" in all things. Praying always is stepping out in faith, believing that if we seek God *first*, He will add *all* the things we need (Philippians 4:19), including the strength to overcome, to finish this journey, and to enter His Kingdom.

When faced with the myriad decisions we have to make during each day, if we are not acknowledging God's presence, we have placed ourselves in the position of fighting our battles on our own. Israel made the same mistake, choosing the hard road in their fight, one littered with bodies. We probably all know of some bodies that now litter the spiritual road we have walked. We veterans carry scars from the battles we have lost.

Our battles to overcome are more like skirmishes than battles. In fact, we experience our most severe temptations and trials in everyday events like eating, conducting business affairs, or relating to others in the family or community. Luke 16:10 acknowledges this: "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."

What better way to win those little skirmishes than to have an invincible Champion, God, in the van of the battle? Because these skirmishes are in the myriad of details we deal with every day, only striving to pray always during the day gives us that unyielding first line of defense.

Our deceitful human nature has in its arsenal countless ways, reasons, and excuses to avoid confronting the real issue of life—overcoming and allowing God to form and shape us into His image. Just bringing God into the picture unleashes forces that will not only help us to overcome, but will also protect us from the pitfalls that litter our path ([Psalm 91:12](#)). It is this striving to pray always that a [Laodicean](#) naturally avoids because he feels no need.

— Pat Higgins

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[\*\*Praying Always \(Part Six\)\*\*](#)

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