

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit pt3

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: The Holy Spirit

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Peace

Peace is one of the most desired, sought after and difficult attributes to attain. One of the results of a relationship with the Holy Spirit is a life of peace. This peace in our life develops as a result of the **abiding** presence of the Holy Spirit. **John 14:27** Before we can ever show a life of peace on the outside we must first have a life of peace on the **inside**. The Peace the Holy Spirit brings is not the momentary relief we get when we sit by a quiet lake or the temporary distraction we get from times of amusements.

True **inner** peace is a part of the Fruit that grows from the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. It is a condition or state of tranquility and quietness that is now part of the character of a Spirit filled believer. This calm is reflected in how we deal with people and situations. The Fruit of peace helps us to live calmly even in life's storms, confusion and attacks. This peace is not easily angered because it is driven by love that understands what it is to be truly loved and secure.

True peace is elusive outside of Christ. It is this peace that guides us in times of indecision and reminds us that we are in right relationship with God. This peace gives us the assurance that we are always provided for and **protected**. **Philippians 4:19, Philippians 4:7, Psalm 91**

~ Stanley Horton – Real peace comes only from the Holy Spirit. It includes a quiet spirit, but it is more than that. It is the consciousness that we are in a right relationship with God, a sense of spiritual well-being. It includes the assurance that God will supply all of our need. Along with love and joy it becomes the help of the Holy Spirit for the rest of the Fruit.

Because of the inner peace of God in our lives it will show itself **outwardly** by the way we live, respond and interact with people. **Romans 12:18, Matthew 5:9, 1 Peter 3:11** You and I have a responsibility to seek out peace with people. God never calls for peace at any price but to strive for peace as much as depends on us. God says blessed or happy are the peace makers. Mature believers learn to respect and accept the differences in other people, especially those in the body of Christ. **Ephesians 4:3-4**

When we are born again, Christ's life comes into our body **literally** from that moment on we live from His life, not our own. **Galatians 2:20** The life of Christ is not one of worry, fear or anxiety. Perfect love casts out all fear. **1 John 4:18** The opposite of fear is **peace** and true peace is the result of abiding love.

In order for fruit to grow it must be nurtured and **focused**. Peace stems from our relationship with the Holy Spirit and this is where we must focus our thinking and hope if we are to remain in peace. **Isaiah 26:3, Romans 8:6, Romans 5:1** When we lack peace it reflects in our thinking. Peace of mind has everything to do with what we do with our **thoughts**. You control your thinking. **Philippians 4:6-8 (NKJV & AMP)**

Peace is something that you must **allow**. **Colossians 3:15 (NKJV & AMP)**
Peace is a choice. “Let the peace of God rule”

One of the great revelations of scripture is that our peace was **paid** for by Jesus on the cross.
Isaiah 53:5, Ephesians 2:13-17

Old Testament examples of the peace of God in people’s lives

1. **ABRAHAM** – in Genesis 13 quarreling was taking place between the herdsmen of Abraham and those of his nephew Lot. To avoid conflict, Abraham put aside his **rights** as head of the family and told Lot to choose whatever property he wanted.
 - * **Those who are willing to give up their own rights in order to be Peacemakers are following the principle of Abraham.**
2. **ISAAC** – in Genesis 26 it tells of Isaac reopening wells once dug by his father Abraham. His enemies had filled them with dirt. Isaac never made an issue of this obstruction of his rights and just kept minding his own business.
 - * **He learned that having peace is more important than having your own **way**.**
3. **DANIEL** – was thrown into a lion’s den (Daniel 6). Yet he could sleep peacefully all night without fear because of his trust in God. The three men thrown into the fiery furnace came out without a burn or even the smell of smoke.
 - * **Peace is not determined by the level of **danger** we are in but by the presence of God.**

New Testament examples of the peace of God in people’s lives

1. **JESUS** – There could be no greater example. In Isaiah 9:6 He is called the **Prince** of Peace.
 - * The first message preached after Jesus was born was one of peace. **Luke 2:14.**
 - * When Jesus sent out the first preachers, He directed them to preach peace. **Luke 10:5.**
 - * The apostle Paul teaches us that Jesus on the cross was our mediator between us and God, bringing peace. **1Timothy 2:5**
2. **THE EARLY CHURCH** – The believers often faced circumstances that could have brought about conflict.
 - * Some were **doctrinal** (Peter and Paul taking the Gospel to Gentiles)
 - * Some were **practical** (the need for the first deacons in Acts 6)
 - * Some were physical and **emotional** (Stephen being stoned)

The Holy Spirit always enabled these early believers to find the mind of God and the way of peace in all their conflicts.