

# Fruit of the Spirit — Part 3

Steve Berger August 6, 2017

## Review

Continuing our study of the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

- **Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- **How do we receive the Fruit of the Spirit?**

- **John 15:4-8**

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

**The Fruit of the Spirit only happens as we abide, ask, accept.**

The Fruit of the *Spirit* happens through **abiding** — not **agonizing!**

## Third Fruit of the Spirit — Peace

**Peace** in the Old Testament (in Hebrew) is **shalom**, complete wellness of body, mind and spirit. **Peace** in the New Testament (in Greek) is **irahney**, calm, quietness of your being, to be at rest.

**The role of peace in the kingdom of God can't be overstated — it's that important!**

### God of Peace

- **Romans 15:33**

Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

- **1 Corinthians 14:33**

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace...

- **Isaiah 9:6**

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

"God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."<sup>1</sup> C.S. Lewis

**Application — Throughout the scriptures, God reveals how much He longs to give peace! So many New Testament epistles start with "grace and peace."**

<sup>1</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (Zondervan, 2001) 50

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## Peace Promised

- **Luke 2:13-14**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

- peace on earth through God's good intentions

- **John 14:25-27**

"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

- Holy Spirit wants to teach and remind us about the peace available
- Jesus' peace isn't worldly – not dependent upon favorable circumstance
- peace means we don't have to be troubled, tumultuous, fearful

- **John 16:33**

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

- not only is Jesus' peace not dependent upon favorable circumstances, it actually overcomes the worldly tribulations we face in life

"When Christ was about to leave the world, He made His will. His soul He committed to His father; His body He bequeathed to Joseph to be decently interred; His clothes fell to the soldiers; His mother He left to the care of John; but what should He leave to His poor disciples that had left all for Him? He left them that which was infinitely better, His peace."<sup>2</sup> Matthew Henry

**Peace is Promised for the follower of Jesus!**

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## Peace Provided

- **Romans 5:1**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

- peace with God comes through our being justified by our faith in Jesus
- **justified** – treated "just-as-if-I've never sinned – but blessed beyond that!
- if you have real faith in Jesus, you and God are good, forever! Peace!
- No God, No Peace – Know God, Know Peace
- move from peace with God to peace in life

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## Peace Practiced

**Question** – *How can the fruit of the Spirit, **peace**, be experienced in my life?*

- **abide in the Prince of Peace**, make Him and His word your dwelling place
- **fix your mind on God**

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew Henry, *The Evangelical Repository, Volume 1* (Thomas D. Morison, London, 1866) 216

- **Isaiah 26:3**

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

“The promise is: ‘You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You.’  
Now, as long as our minds are stayed on our dear selves, we shall never have peace.”<sup>3</sup>  
Dwight L. Moody

- **that’s being spiritually minded**

- **Romans 8:6**

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- peace is from being spiritually-minded – moment by moment decision!

- **Philippians 4:6-9**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, **these do**, and the God of peace will be with you.

- don’t be anxious, worried, troubled about stuff, don’t abide there!
      - commit everything to prayer and thanksgiving
      - peace that **surpasses understanding** will be yours

***Listen** – not only is Jesus’ peace not dependent upon favorable circumstances, it actually overcomes the worldly tribulations we face AND it surpasses understanding*

**God of peace is with us when we’re spiritually minded, prayerful, and thankful – if we are not those things, we’re anxious, worried, troubled, and freaking out**

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## **Things to meditate on...**

**...as we are being spiritually-minded, prayerful, and thankful...**

- a) True- complete truth
- b) Noble- honest
- c) Just- equitable, fair
- d) Pure- innocent, undefiled
- e) Lovely- friendly towards others
- f) Good Report- spoken well of, reputable
- g) Virtue- valor, mental and moral excellence
- h) Praiseworthy- commendable, worthy of praise, laudable

**When we meditate on these things – the God of peace will be with us! There is NO stinkin’ thinkin’ anywhere on the list – none!**

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<sup>3</sup> Dwight L. Moody, *The Secret of Success in the Christian Life* (Moody Publishers, 2001)

**Tragically** – we're more familiar with thinking on, meditating on, the exact opposite of these things and therefore forfeit the beautiful peace the Spirit wants to produce in us

- a) Lies- in whole or part, not truth- about ourselves or others
- b) Dishonest- not honest- skewed reality, distortions serving our own purposes
- c) Unfair- not equitable or fair- unbalanced
- d) Impure- not innocent or undefiled, thoughts and actions - accusatory, guilt-ridden, shameful
- e) Divisive- not lovely or friendly- bringing chaos, hurt – not peace or reconciliation
- f) Degrading- not good report, not reputable- cheapening, lessening, lowering
- g) Disgraceful- not virtuous or morally excellent- ungodly, unholy, un-Christlike
- h) Negative- not praiseworthy and commendable- bitter, unthankful, self-pity

**If your thought-life isn't abiding in the Presence and Promises of God, producing peace in your life – you will be tormented by the anxious, chaotic, torture of the Devil.**

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## Closing promises

**Question** – Where is the Devil having victory in your thought-life? Where are you forfeiting peace? Where do you have to start being spiritually-minded, so you can have peace?

- **Colossians 3:15**  
And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
  - let peace of God rule, quit resisting it, arguing with it
- **2 Corinthians 13:11**  
Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
  - live in peace – watch God's Presence increase in your life

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## Discussion Questions

1. In your own life, what percentage of the time would you say that you are truly peaceful?
2. What “circumstances” or “unfavorable situations” disturb your peace? How can your relationship with God change your relationship with those circumstances and situations?
3. Do you believe that God is a “good” God? Why or why not? Support your reasoning.
4. How does being “justified by faith” produce peace?
5. What is the correlation between “peace” and “thanksgiving” – between “unhappiness” and “unthankfulness.”
6. Where is the devil having victory in your thought life? Where do you have to start being spiritually-minded so you can have peace?