

TITLE: Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

Wednesday Bible Study 6/2/10

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Back when

John Kennedy was President and Nikita Khrushchev was over in the Soviet Union and Golda Meir was Prime Minister of Israel, the three of them got together and decided to pray about the greatest concerns on their hearts.

And Nikita Khrushchev asked God if there would ever be peace between Russia and the United States, and God looked at Nikita Khrushchev and said, "Not in your lifetime."

John Kennedy said, "Well, God, will there be peace in America between the blacks and the whites?"

And God, again, said, "Well, not in your lifetime."

And finally,

Golda Meir asked God, she said, "Well, will there be peace between the Arabs and the Jews?" And God said, "Not in my lifetime."

Let's talk about peace. Peace on the inside. Peace in relationships. Peace with one another. There are two misconceptions that I want to talk about first before we look at the biblical peace that Paul is talking about.

let me read from .....

Matthew 7:17-20

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Jesus told His disciples that you can tell if someone truly belongs to Him by the kind of spiritual fruit that they produce. What does that mean?

Everything that you do. Every thing that you say.

You begin to look more like Jesus.

NOTE: the lack of peace in a person's life indicates a lack of Spirit. When a person doesn't have peace, they have a spiritual problem.

Galatians 5  
 16 ... Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.  
 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,  
 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,  
 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.  
 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.  
 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.  
 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Does the way you live identify you as a Christian?  
 We have specifically identified the Fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5  
 22 ... love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
 23 Meekness, temperance: ...

NOTE: the lack of peace in a person's life indicates a lack of Spirit.  
 When a person doesn't have peace, they have a spiritual problem.

Galatians 5 The Message  
 22 But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard....

These signs are evidence to the world that you are a Christian.

**1 LET'S BE KNOWN AS A CHRISTIAN by the fruit of the Spirit.**

Which fruit of the Spirit is found the most in the Bible?  
 Love? would have been my guess.  
 No. Goodness? Faith! Joy?  
 No. No. and No.

NOTE: Peace is found in the Bible 429 times.

MONTH	FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT	OCCURENCES	
April	love	311	3
May	joy	165	4

June	peace	429	14
July	longsuffering	17	17
August	gentleness	4	51
September	goodness	51	165
October	faith (faithfulness)	247	247
November	meekness	14	311
December	temperance (self-discipline)	3	429

② Here are the 9 fruit of the Spirit that should be found in our lives....

### 1. Love

this is the **first** of the fruit of the Spirit: love

**John 13**  
 By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

NLT: Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

The Greek word used in Galatians 5, and again here in John 13, is agape.

This is the kind of love that God loves us with...

It is self-sacrificing. It is unconditional.

Talking about love that is impossible for any human to achieve on their own. It can only be developed as a fruit of the Spirit.

But, Jesus says that developing this kind of love in your heart is the only way the world will be able to identify you as His.

Love is known as THE CHRISTIAN VIRTUE

The Apostle John says it well:

**1 John 4**  
 7 ¶ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

second fruit of the Spirit..... is

### 2. Joy

definition of joy

Let me give you a definition of "joy."

*Joy is an evidence of the presence of God in your life.*

Or....a more Biblical phrase....  
Joy is a fruit of the Spirit.

tonight we will add ....  
3. Peace

that leaves.....  
4. Longsuffering  
5. Gentleness  
6. Goodness  
7. Faith  
8. Meekness

9. Temperance  
with these 6 to go.....we better get busy working on the first three!!!!

**The third fruit of the Spirit is: peace.**

Peace is a major theme in the Bible. It appears more than 80 times and it occurs at least 1 time in every one of the 39 books in the New Testament.

Definition:

**1) a state of national peace;** exemption from war.

Revelation 6.4....power was given to him ... to take peace from the earth

**2) peace between individuals,** i.e. harmony.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

**3) security, safety,** prosperity (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous).

Hebrews 7.2 .... Melchizedec is called..... King of peace

**4) salvation;** the Messiah's peace.

Luke 2.14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**5) the blessed state of devout and upright men after death.**

Psalms 37

35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

36 Yet he passed away, and, lo, he [was] not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

37 Mark the perfect [man], and behold the upright: for the end of [that] man [is] peace.

**6) the peace of the Christian life**

the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly life, of whatsoever sort that is.

Romans 8

6 For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace.

2 Peter 3.14

... be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Romans 15

13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

John 16

33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Colossians 3

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

NOTE: the lack of peace in a person's life indicates a lack of Spirit. When a person doesn't have peace, they have a spiritual problem.

Root Word (Etymology)

Comes from the original word.... eirene ....pronounced: a-ra'-na

Matthew Henry: peace is: peace with God and conscience, or a peaceableness of temper and behaviour towards others

Probably comes from a primary verb eiro (to join)

How can we experience peace?

First...of all, that we need to develop & maintain a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Listen to what Jesus says in John 15:5,6...

5 I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.  
6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast [them] into the fire, and they are burned.

Jesus is saying that when we become Christians we're like a branch attached to the vine. Jesus is the vine, & we're the branches. As long as we're attached to Him we'll bear fruit.

That is where it begins. When we are attached to the vine it means that we have accepted Jesus as our Savior... been baptized in His name...and been filled with the Holy Ghost.

If you have not received the Holy Ghost.... then you need to seek His Spirit. You can never have the peace that GOD gives until you are attached as a branch to Him.

Here are some basic things that you have to do to make that happen in your life.

First of all...

1. be filled with His Spirit.

If you're a Christian, & there isn't much peace in your life, then you need to be reattached to the vine..... be full of the Spirit.

Romans 8

10 And if Christ [be] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin; but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

One of my concerns about the church is that there are detached branches that are dying, but they don't realize it yet. They look alive, they sound like they're alive, but in reality they're dead, because they're no longer attached to the vine.

Ephesians 5

18 ... be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

**2. Read the Word.** You can't know what God's will is, or what God wants for you until you read His Word. So read the Word, & spend time in prayer. Seek His will in your life.

**Psalm 119**

**165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.**

**Act 10**

**36** The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ:

You also need to be

**3. faithful to church.**

We just can't make it by ourselves. Only God can give you the true inner peace and that comes from a relationship with Him.

You can't be saved without being attached to a good church.

In Galatians 4.26, the church is called the spiritual mother of us all.

You need the church to have peace.

**Romans 14**

**17** For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

**18** For he that in these things serveth Christ [is] acceptable to God, and approved of men.

**19** Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

...and the peace of the Lord will fill your heart.

we need to give ourselves in

**4. service for others.**

One of the biggest problems in our world today is that we have become so self-centered that we no longer experience the benefits of serving others.

James chapter 2 and 3 tell us that if we have good works....we will gain peace.

Jesus said...

**Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.**

**5. Look on things eternal.**

Paul writes,

**2 Corinthians 4**

**18** While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen [are] temporal; but the things which are

not seen [are] eternal.

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward [man] is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen [are] temporal; but the things which are not seen [are] eternal.

## Romans 5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

## CLOSE

**01 The Great Chicago Fire** occurred in 1871.

Over 300 people died & another 100,000 were left homeless. Tragedies like this one, always bring out hero is some people. One of the heroes of the Great Chicago Fire was

**02 Horatio Gates Spafford**. Spafford was an attorney, who lost a lot of real-estate in the fire. To make matters even worse, his son died about the same time. In spite of his great personal loss Spafford unselfishly helped others who were homeless, and grief-stricken because of the fire. Because of his generosity and service he was well known throughout Chicago as a sincere, devout Christian.

About two years later, in November 1873, Spafford and his family decided to take a vacation. Spafford was a good friend of D. L. Moody, and his family decided to meet Moody on one of his evangelistic campaigns in England, and then from there the family would travel on to Europe. However, just before they were to leave Horatio was unexpectedly detained by urgent business concerns in Chicago.

The decision was made that his wife Anna and their daughters would go ahead to England and he would catch up with them as soon as possible. Tragedy was to strike on that trip. Just off Newfoundland, the ship collided with an English sailing vessel and sunk within 20 minutes. Anna Spafford was one of the 47 passengers who survived.

Tragically all four of their daughters were part of the 226 who died. Anna Spafford's heartbreaking telegram to her husband simply read:

"Saved alone." The grieving father immediately set sail for England to join his grief-stricken wife. As the ship that he was traveling on passed the approximate location where his daughters had drowned, Horatio Spafford penned the words to that beautiful song.....

(verse 1)

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to know;  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

(verse 2)

Tho' Satan Should buffet,  
tho' trials should come, Let his blessed assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
It is well, with my soul.

(chorus)

It is well....  
it is well....

It is well....it is well....with my soul.

To be able to write a song like that after such a test of his faith....  
GOD must have given Spafford PEACE to be able to write words like that after  
experiencing a tragedy of losing four daughters.  
That is peace that only GOD can give.