

Peace

The Fruits of the Spirit · Fruits of the Spirit

Peace, the third fruit manifested by the Spirit, encompasses far more than mere absence of conflict or temporary calm between storms. The Hebrew שָׁלוֹם (shalom) and Greek εἰρήνη (eirene) denote wholeness, completeness, prosperity of soul, and right relationship with God and man. This peace operates on two essential levels: objective peace with God through Christ's atoning work, and subjective peace of God experienced in the believer's heart and mind. Both dimensions flow from the Spirit's ministry, establishing the soul's tranquility upon the immovable foundation of divine truth and sovereign grace.

Note: Biblical peace differs fundamentally from worldly peace. The world's peace depends upon favorable circumstances, absence of conflict, and control of one's environment. Biblical peace rests upon eternal realities—God's unchanging character, Christ's completed work, and the Spirit's abiding presence. Christ declared, 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you' (John 14:27). His peace endures when worldly peace fails, for it derives from trusting an omnipotent, benevolent sovereign rather than controlling fickle circumstances.

The foundation of Christian peace lies in reconciliation with God. Paul declared, 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (Romans 5:1). Humanity's natural state involves enmity against God—the carnal mind, hostile to divine law, produces alienation and dread. But Christ's substitutionary death satisfied divine justice, removed the barrier of sin, and established peace between holy God and forgiven sinners. 'He is our peace' (Ephesians 2:14), having reconciled both Jew and Gentile unto God in one body through the cross, 'having slain the enmity thereby.' This objective peace provides the unshakeable basis for subjective experience

—knowing God as Father rather than Judge, approaching Him with confidence rather than cowering in fear, resting in His favor rather than anxiety over His wrath.

Upon this foundation, believers experience the peace of God—that supernatural tranquility which 'passeth all understanding' and guards hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7). This peace defies human comprehension, persisting amid circumstances that would naturally produce anxiety, fear, and despair. Isaiah promised, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee' (Isaiah 26:3). The secret lies not in favorable circumstances but in fixed focus upon God's character and promises. As believers commit their way unto the Lord, casting all their care upon Him, His peace garrisons their souls against the assaults of worry, doubt, and fear.

This peace proves particularly vital in trials and tribulation. Christ warned, 'In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world' (John 16:33). Peace coexists with tribulation, not because believers ignore reality but because they know the Victor. Paul testified of being 'troubled on every side, yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair' (2 Corinthians 4:8)—circumstances warranted anxiety, yet divine peace prevailed. Similarly, believers throughout church history have faced persecution, loss, suffering, and martyrdom while maintaining peace through faith in God's sovereignty, goodness, and ultimate victory. This supernatural calm amid storm testifies to the Spirit's power more eloquently than a thousand sermons.

The cultivation of peace requires specific spiritual disciplines. Paul commanded, 'Be careful for nothing'—literally, be anxious about nothing—'but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God' (Philippians 4:6). Anxiety springs from attempting

to bear burdens God never intended us to carry. Peace flows from casting those burdens upon Him in prayer, trusting His wisdom and power to handle what surpasses our control. Additionally, believers must guard their thought life: 'Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report—think on these things' (Philippians 4:8). Dwelling upon God's truth, promises, and character produces peace; fixating upon worst-case scenarios, injustices, and problems breeds anxiety. The Spirit grants peace as believers cooperate by directing their minds godward.

Key Verses

Philippians 4:6-7

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Isaiah 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Romans 5:1

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

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.

Romans 8:6

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

