

## The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

### Part 1 of 2 - The Peace of God

Peace is a precious gift from God. Philippians 4:7 describes it as “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” This peace is not just the absence of external conflict, nor is it a fleeting sense of calm that depends on favorable circumstances. It is the profound presence of God in our lives, helping soothe our anxieties and fears in the midst of turmoil. The world has many forms of temporary peace, often dependent on circumstances, but the peace that God gives is steadfast and enduring.

The Lord Jesus, before His crucifixion, assured His disciples, “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” (John 14:27). His peace is not merely a comforting word but a divine promise that we can rely on always. It can sustain us through trials and tribulations, a peace that can calm the most turbulent storms. When we are anchored in this peace, we are not easily shaken by the uncertainties and challenges of life.

As we seek this peace, let us draw near to God in prayer and in His Word. By immersing ourselves in His presence, we allow His peace into every aspect of our being, guarding our hearts and minds against that which seeks to overwhelm us. This peace is not passive but active, empowering us to face life's challenges with confidence, knowing that God is in control. It is through this divine peace that we can navigate life's difficulties with a calm and steady heart, trusting that God's purpose will prevail.

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### Part 2 of 2 - Peace with Others

As followers of Christ, we are to be peacemakers, reflecting the peace we have received from God in our relationships with others. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” This peace is not simply about avoiding conflict or keeping the peace at all costs. It is a proactive pursuit of reconciliation, healing, and harmony in our interactions. Being a peacemaker means being willing to step into uncomfortable situations, extending grace, and trying to bring understanding and unity where there is division.

Paul urges in Romans 12:18, “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” This call to live peaceably is a challenge that has us attempt to embody humility, patience, and a readiness to forgive. Peace with others is a reflection of our peace received from God, and serves as a powerful testimony of God’s transformative power. When we choose to seek peace, we become conduits of God’s love.

In our daily interactions, we should strive to be instruments of peace, resolving conflicts with grace and love. Whether in our families, workplaces, or communities, we are called to bring Christ light into situations of discord. This active pursuit of peace will not only strengthen our relationships but also serve as a living testament to the peace that God offers to all. We can inspire others to seek the same peace, fostering a spirit of reconciliation and unity that honors God and advances His kingdom.

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God's peace transcends what we can know,  
A calm that's steadfast, pure, and true.  
It quiets fears when tempests grow,  
A gift that Christ has left for you.  
No storm can shake when anchored strong,  
In Him we find where we belong.

As peacemakers, we must extend  
A hand of grace where strife is found.  
To heal, restore, and make amends,  
In love, we walk on holy ground.  
With every step, His peace we show,  
Reflecting light where love may grow.