
Three of Nine - PEACE

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith... Gal. 5:22

We have been looking at the Fruit of the Spirit over the last few posts and I hope you have been enjoying them. We have heard from some that follow our updates in a positive way, this is a real joy for us to receive.

We have looked at **Love** and **Joy** and now we shall look briefly at the fruit of **Peace**, not that it does not merit an in depth study because one could write volumes on the subject and many have. But our goal is to give you a nugget or two and hopefully you will dig deeper in your own study time.

*“The Word of God is like a gold mine, we point you to the veins
and you dig out the riches”*

Religion can never give peace. As a matter of fact it will produce just the opposite in the person. It will produce fear and condemnation and a lack of self-confidence. So where does peace come from and how do we live in it? Well, as we see in our scripture in Gal. 5:22, peace is a fruit of the Spirit. We as believers are never without it. Christians have it always in their born-again spirits, like love and joy and faith. Peace comes through the Lord Jesus, as we can see in the letter to the Romans. Paul said this, “THEREFORE BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST:” **Rom 5:1** and of course we have this faithful word to rely upon as well, “*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” Phil. 4:7

Now the verse just before this one reads like this, “*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*” Phil. 4:6. Let’s look at this scripture in another translation. Why? Because in the days of the writing of the King James Version the word for care or cares or careful is different than the way we use it today. We often think of the word “careful” as meaning being cautious or vigilant to take heed of something. But when it was used 400 years ago it meant “**worry**” or “**anxious**”. So looking at the NLT Bible we see where it says it like this “*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.* (Philippians 4:6 NLT)

Christians who are lacking peace in their life are lacking it because they are letting the cares or worries of this life blind them. And care will blind a person to God’s peace. But when we cast away care then peace will follow. Just look at this wonderful promise and instruction in the book of First Peter “*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*” (1 Peter 5:7 KJV)..in one translation it says “**He cares for you affectionately.**”

Now notice we are to cast the care on Him. It is an act of faith! Many believers are asking God to give them peace so all the cares will leave, all the while holding onto the worry and the care of the situation. It simply won’t work that way. In reality to hold on the worry is a demonstration of pride, because the

scripture just before this one in 1 Peter that tells us to cast all the care on Him, says "**Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.**" (1 Peter 5:6) It is prideful to refuse help from someone who is more able than you and has the ability to help and freely offers that help and continue to struggle through with an "I can do it myself attitude." Any believer that has studied the authority that we as believers have would know that real authority will never come without submission, but that is another subject we will have to study in the future. Suffice it to say without submission there is no authority. It is like a leader who will not delegate things to others. This action says loud and clear that "no one is able to do it as well as I can" when all the while help is standing by.

Paul was speaking of God's peace, not human peace. Often when we think of peace we think of a life with no problems and nothing to have to deal with and that is not the case of real peace. And that is why most people, including Christian people, do not experience peace very often. No, the peace we are describing is a peace that is of God, because God's peace is independent of the circumstances and situations of this life and infinitely greater in supply than any problem we could ever have. He has given us a peace that passes our understanding. It is a supernatural peace from on high. It is the peace of God.

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Of course we all have things in this life to deal with. As missionaries Donnia and I have many opportunities to get into worry and be anxious about things. We are dependent somewhat on others to be led of God and on their generosity to help us each month and for churches to let us come and minister. Many times we have gotten to the point of not knowing how we were going to buy food for the week or pay the rent for the month and continue to live on the mission field. Sometimes people and churches don't follow through with what they have said and sometimes people will just stop supporting with no reason as to why. So what do we do? We do just what the Bible says, we take it to the Lord and cast it on Him and believe His word is true. One man I learned from said it like this when ask by his wife and church leaders, 'what are we going to do?' He would say "well, we are going to act like the Bible is true" and walk in peace and joy knowing God is taking the care of the situation.

The peace of God keeps our hearts and minds out of fear. Those who lack peace will be tormented in those areas. Peace is like a garrison against the devil. Before Satan can get to our hearts, he has to get us to step out of God's peace. Therefore, we must let God's peace protect our hearts and minds. "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts"

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (Colossians 3:15 KJV)

I really like this scripture because it helps me so much in my daily life. Many ask how to be led of the Spirit or how to be led in their spirit. This is the normal answer I give, let the peace of God guide you.

I quote this Word from God that came through Paul. And normally I will quote the Amplified version because it does so much to explain how this scripture works in the life of the believer. Many things I don't even need to pray about, because I am led by the peace of God, because that peace acts as an umpire continually, and what does an umpire do, well he is a judge, and peacemaker, mediator, he calls **things safe or not**. Here is the way it is written in the Amplified Bible....

*And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (**act as umpire continually**) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always]. (Colossians 3:15 AMP)*

(Bold emphasis added by me.) So then we let the peace of God rule our heart and we walk in peace, knowing He is taking the care for us. And just as an umpire settles every dispute in the sporting game so the peace of God settles every dispute as to the will of God in our lives. We must take heed to the umpire of our hearts and let it rule. I mean really how many times have some of us said, after the fact about something.. "I knew better than to do this or that because I just never felt good about it"? Well that was the umpire of our heart telling us and guiding us but we chose to play by our rules and do it our own way and when we do that it can be extremely dangerous to us and the ones we love and have around us.

Remember we have the PEACE of God being produced in us, the believer always. We just don't always pay attention. Consider the options and listen to your heart and then act in faith. What if we make a mistake? Well it is possible that we will but a car that never moves will surely never be at risk of hitting something, but it will also never fulfil the purpose it was made for. God can and does bless us even when we make a mistake, because making a mistake in faith trying to follow the peace of God in our hearts is better than doing nothing at all. The Lord can bless a wrong decision made in faith. He can work things together for good to those who love God (Rom.8:28) from a pure heart more than He can bless no decision at all (Ro 14:23).

Blessings!! And remember...look to your future and not to the past, learn to live in the grace of God and love much, forgive always and hold no bitterness toward anyone.