

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - PEACE

PEACE: quietness, at rest, set at one again, a situation in which people are pleasant and do not cause trouble.

How do we gain more peace in our lives?

Philip. 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

How do we avoid anxiety?

BIBLICAL PEACE is the state of inner quiet and rest. Some people say, "I have no peace", this is one of the curses of modern life, there is no peace except in Jesus, because this is supernatural peace.

Peace is a state of wholeness and security, yet one that is often misunderstood and therefore not achieved. Peace is not being passive or negative in attitude. It is standing strong in spite of every insult, offence, heartache, whatever the turmoil around us.

We must be willing to face ourselves, with Holy Spirit help, to find what blocks our peace with God, e.g. quarrelling, criticising, unforgiveness, etc. these WILL disturb our peace. We must not blame nature, or family weaknesses, but cry out to God - Lord, help me to change, "I AM WILLING TO LET YOU CHANGE MY LIFE."

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; **my peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.* Peace is something very special that Jesus left behind! Given to us.

John 16:33 *I have told you these things, so that **in me** you may have **peace**. **In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.***

Fear is an enemy of peace

Job 3:25-26 *What I have feared has come upon me – what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.*

Satan will try to enhance and encourage fearful events and situations. Our imagination is a powerful thing. Sometimes we can be in the middle of fearful imaginings without realising that satan is stirring it up. We need place a cross in the door to our imagination and stop satan as soon as he tries.

Fear of death – fear of cancer – fear of accidents, robs you of peace. If your thinking time is spent in worry and fear, what you dread and imagine can distract you from your position in Christ. So, we need to ask God for His perspective. We should not live with the fear of death or the future – we need a deep revelation and knowledge of our relationship with God and that we will never be alone

– we are secure so we need not fear. Again and again the Bible uses the expression – “Do not fear I am with you!”

Pro 14:30 *A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.* Many of the illnesses we suffer from are stress related and we need to gain peace to gain health.

If we have the Peace of God in us, we can declare – Peace – Be still.

Boldness can bring peace.

Mark 4:39 *He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*

So often panic and fear are spiritually induced and need a spiritual answer. Speak to the strife - just as Jesus did - and see what happens.

Called to be Peacemakers

Rom 12:18 *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* **Direct instruction.**

James 3:18 *Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

Matt 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God.*

Do you want to be a peacemaker? A peacemaker is tolerant and overlooks minor problems. There are strong rewards for being a peace maker. Some people are definitely not peacemakers.

Biblical peace overcomes torment and fear and gives life

Jer 29:7 *Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*

Leave a blessing of peace upon a home when you visit people.

Matt 10:13 *“If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.”*

The ‘Good News’ that we bring is the gospel of peace.

Eph. 6:15 *“and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the **gospel of peace.**”*

Where we go we should bring peace.

Isaiah 54:10 *Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

When we walk in righteousness we can have guaranteed peace, we can give peace and leave peace it is part of our inheritance.

Too often we hear that to be at peace must mean to compromise, - Jesus never compromised. He was the greatest confronter the world has ever known. Where there is unrighteousness we must confront. Peace exists within the boundaries of righteousness.

Isaiah 32:17 *The **fruit of righteousness** will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.*

“Go in peace” is used many times. It’s more than have a good journey; it means go with our blessing and a right relationship with us. It is impossible to live and go in peace if there is broken relationship and unforgiveness.

Num 6:24 -26 *The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, and the LORD turn his face toward you and **give you peace.***

Peace is a **gift from the Lord** - when we walk in his ways.

2 Thes 3:16 *Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.*

Rom 8:6 *For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.*

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