



Go for God!

“The Fruit of Spirit is PEACE!” ***How To Be a Fruitful Christian Series (Part 3)***

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, PEACE, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

Intro: The word “peace” is found 397 times in the Bible.

- **Years ago, a Dr. Robert Oppenheimer**, who supervised the creation of the first atomic bomb, appeared before a Congressional Committee. They inquired of him if there were any defense against the weapon. "Certainly," the great physicist replied. "And that is—" Dr. Oppenheimer looked over the hushed, expectant audience and said softly: "Peace."

- To have peace we must understand peace! To have peace we must find its source! To have peace is to maintain its life and breath!

> **Understanding PEACE** – *Peace* is a condition of freedom from disturbance, whether outwardly, as of a nation from war or enemies, or inwardly, within the soul.

- The **Old Testament** peace was completeness, soundness, and well-being of the total person. The Hebrew word is *shalom* meaning, "soundness," "health," but coming also to signify "prosperity," well-being in general, all good in relation to both man and God.

- *Shalom* was the common friendly greeting, used in asking after the health of anyone; also, in farewells. This **peace** was considered God-given, obtained by **following the Law** (Ps 119:165 - *Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.*); **peace** sometimes had a physical meaning, suggesting **security** (Ps 4:8 - *I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.*); **contentment** (Isa 26:3 - *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.*); **prosperity** (Ps 122:6-7 - *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces."*). The traditional Jewish greeting, *shalom*, was also known as a wish for peace.

- **What does God think of you?** In **Jeremiah 29:11-12** - *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.*

- The **“Prince of Peace”** was expressed in the Old Testament writings regarding the coming **MESSIAH** - **Isaiah 9:6-7** - *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

CHRIST IS OUR SOURCE FOR PEACE!

> **JESUS is our source for PEACE** – In the New Testament, peace often refers to the inner tranquility and poise of the Christian whose trust is in God through Christ. **The peace that Jesus**

Christ spoke of was a combination of hope, trust, and quiet in the mind and soul, brought about by a reconciliation with God.

- Such peace was proclaimed by the host of angels at Christ's birth (Luke 2:14 - "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*"), and by Christ Himself in His SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Matt 5:9 - *Blessed (happy) are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*) and during His ministry.

- The apostle Paul later wrote that such peace and spiritual blessedness was a direct result of faith in Christ (Rom 5:1-2 - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*)

- **JUSTIFICATION** is God's declaration that the demands of His Law have been fulfilled in the righteousness of His Son. The basis for this justification is the death of Christ.

- Paul tells us that "*God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them*" (2 Cor 5:19). Justification, then, is based on the work of Christ, accomplished through His blood (Rom 5:9) and brought to His people through His resurrection (Rom 4:25).

D.L. Moody writes, "It has been said that peace has five enemies: Envy, avarice, ambition, anger and pride. But all sin disturbs our peace. If I turn from sin, however, and try to please God, he promises that he will make even my enemies to be at peace with me."

> Observe Four Steps to PEACE:

#1 - Forgiveness of sin produces peace - Turn to **Luke 7:36-50** and let's discover mankind's greatest need for peace. (1 John 1:9-10)

#2 - Faith in Christ brings peace - **Mark 5:25-34**

#3 - Hope in Christ maintains peace - **John 16:33** - *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*" (**Mark 4:35-41 - Peace, be still!**)

#4 - Receive the gift of His peace - **John 14:27-28** - *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

> Blessed (HAPPY) are the PEACEMAKERS! Let's MAKE PEACE through:

- Our Peace GREETINGS! - **1 Cor 1:3** - *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Our Peace PLAN! - **Rom 8:6** - *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* The word "carnal" is translated from the Greek word "sarkos," which literally means "fleshly." This may mean that a person does not have an active prayer life, they're not seeking the Bible as an authority for their life, they're not regularly worshipping God with other Christians, and/or they are involved in the sinful ways of the world. Carnality breeds futility.

- Our PRAYER life! - **Phil 4:6-7** - *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

- Our pursuing Peace in our RELATIONSHIPS! - Col 3:12-17

- Our Peacemaking in CHURCH! - 1 Cor 14:33 - *For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. 1 Thess 5:13 -Be at peace among yourselves.*

- Our PREACHING peace! - Eph 6:15 - *and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace*

- Our seeking God's WISDOM for peace! - James 3:13-18

- Our MULTIPLICATION in peace! - 1 Peter 1:2 - *Grace to you and peace be multiplied.*

“SHA-LOA!”