

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Please take God's Word and turn with me once again to Galatians chapter 5.
2. We are looking again at verse 22.
3. We are in a series on "Bad and Good Habits."
4. We have already identified the bad habits.
5. Today we're looking at the good.

6. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit.
7. This is one fruit manifested in 9 attitudes of Christlike character.
8. Every follower of Jesus Christ produces the fruit of the Spirit as they are yielded to the Holy Spirit.
9. We have already looked at love and joy.
10. Today we're looking at peace.
11. Peace is a coveted item today.
12. In a world that knows nothing but war, peace is sought after.

13. There is coming a day when a world ruler known as the AntiChrist will secure a temporary peace for the world, that is between Israel and the other nations.
14. But 3 ½ years into the peace treaty he will break it by going in the newly rebuilt temple, set up a throne and proclaim himself to be God.
15. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NASB) Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

16. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 (NASB) While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.
17. This, of course, is not the peace that Paul is talking about here in Galatians 5.
18. He is talking about an inner peace.
19. This is what Paul calls “the peace of God” in Philippians 4:7.
20. The “peace of God” is “Inner calm or tranquillity” (John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible: Phil.4:7) which “surpasses all understanding.”

21. God's peace "transcends human intellectual powers, analysis, insights, and understanding."
22. God's peace is "a transcendent calm that lifts the believer above the most debilitating trial.
23. The real challenge of the Christian life is not to eliminate every unpleasant circumstance; it is to trust in the good purpose of our infinite, holy, sovereign, powerful God in every difficulty. Those who honor Him by trusting Him will experience the blessings of His perfect peace" (MacArthur, 284).

## **LESSON**

### **I. God is the God of Peace**

- A. He is called “the God of peace” in Romans 15:33 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- B. He is called “the God of love and peace” in 2 Corinthians 13:11
- C. Jesus is called “the Lord of peace” in 2 Thessalonians 3:16 and “the Prince of Peace” in Isaiah 9:6

Thomas Watson said, “God the Father is called the “God of peace” (Hebrews 13:20). God the Son, the “Prince of peace” (Isaiah 9:6). God the Holy Ghost, the “Spirit . . . of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).<sup>1</sup>

## II. **Jesus Promised Peace to His Disciples**

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Watson, [\*The Golden Treasury of Puritan Quotations\*](#). electronic ed. Simpsonville, SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1999. Print.

- A. John 14:27 (NASB) Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.
- B. Paul says in Ephesians 2:14-16 (NASB) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

### III. This is All Said to Be the Fruit of the Spirit

- A. It characterizes the kingdom of God - Romans 14:17 (NASB) for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
  
- B. It accompanies salvation - Romans 5:1 (NASB) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

William Gurnall said, “We have peace with God as soon as we believe, but not always with ourselves.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ritzema, Elliot, and Elizabeth Vince, eds. [300 Quotations for Preachers from the Puritans](#). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2013. Print. Pastorum Series.

C. It accompanies faith - Romans 15:13 (NASB) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John Flavel said, “All other graces, like birds in the nest, depend upon what faith brings into them; take away faith, and all the graces languish and die: joy, peace, hope, patience, and all the rest, depend upon faith.”<sup>3</sup>

#### **IV. Believers Have Inner Peace But Should Seek Peace Among Others**

A. They should love peace - Judah was told to “love truth and peace” in

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<sup>3</sup> Ritzema, Elliot, and Elizabeth Vince, eds. [300 Quotations for Preachers from the Puritans](#). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2013. Print. Pastorum Series.

## Zechariah 8:19

- B. They should seek it - Psalms 34:14  
(NASB) Depart from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.
  
- C. They should follow it - 2 Timothy 2:22  
(NASB) Now flee from youthful lusts and  
pursue righteousness, faith, love and  
peace, with those who call on the Lord  
from a pure heart.
  
- D. They should follow the things which  
make for it - Romans 14:19 (NASB) So  
then we pursue the things which make  
for peace and the building up of one  
another.
  
- E. They should cultivate it - Psalms  
120:5-7 (NASB) Woe is me, for I sojourn

in Meshech, for I dwell among the tents of Kedar! 6 Too long has my soul had its dwelling with those who hate peace. 7 I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war.

F. They should speak it - Esther 10 (NASB) Now King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land and on the coastlands of the sea. 2 And all the accomplishments of his authority and strength, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia? 3 For Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and in favor with his many kinsmen, one who sought the good of his people and

one who spoke for the welfare of his whole nation.

G. They should live in it - 2 Corinthians 13:11 (NASB) Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

H. They should pray for it among believers - Psalms 122:6-9 (NASB) Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. 7 “May peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces.” 8 For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, “May peace be within you.” 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

- I. They should exhort others to it -  
Genesis 45:24 (NASB) So he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, “Do not quarrel on the journey.”

## **CONCLUSION**

1. As you can see that since the Holy Spirit gives us the fruit of the Spirit, we are to do it.
2. Galatians 5:22-23 is attitude fruit that must be at the heart of all action on our part.
3. That's why 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 describes love.

4. It can be seen.
5. That is true of all these attitudes in Galatians 5:22-23.
6. But before you can have the fruit of the Spirit you have to have the Spirit.
7. To have the Spirit is to be born again.
8. If you have not been born from above, I call you today to repent and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
9. The Bible says in Romans 10:9-13 (NASB) that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in

righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

10. Let's pray.