

Fruit-Filled Living (Pt.5)

"I'll Have a Slice of Peace Please"

(Galatians 5:22)

"The fruit of the Spirit is ...Peace"

Introduction: Picture yourself on a hot summer day, the sun is scorching, your mouth is parched & dry. What would be better at that moment than a good cold, juicy slice of watermelon? I bet some of you enjoyed some over this hot *Fourth of July weekend!* Now, as refreshing as watermelons are, so is peace to a world that so desperately seeks it. *People everywhere are seeking for peace and right here the Apostle Paul is telling us, "The fruit of the Spirit is... peace" (i.e.) The Holy Spirit provides a slice of peace for every believer!*

I. A slice of peace with God:

Peace is one of the great words in the Bible –

1. In the O.T. it is the word *Shalom* – (And it carries the idea to make complete.)
2. One of the names of God in the O.T. is *Jehovah shalom* – meaning, “the God who gives peace.” But how do we get peace from God?

A. Peace with God is obtained first, through God's forgiveness

1. *In the O.T. sin kept people from experiencing God's peace - (Isa 48:22)*
2. In the N.T. sin keeps people experiencing God's peace too. *(Col 1:21; Rom 5:10)*

Can you imagine declaring war against the creator of the universe or even worse having Him declare war on you! [*What a mismatch!*] But that is why many today don't have peace – because they are still separated from God!

- (Rom.5:1) makes clear, that the only way we can have peace with God is... *through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Isa.9:6; Lk.2:14)*

- a. Christ gives us the peace of a clean heart – *(Jn.1:29; 1 Jn 1:7)*
- b. Christ gives us the peace of a right relationship with God. *(Rom.5:1; 1 Jn.4:19)*

Chuck Swindoll “*Justified means* – it is not as if I never sinned. It is although I am a dirty sinner: Jesus died for me and sees me as clean.”

- c. Christ gives us the peace of a Spirit-controlled life *(Eph. 5:18)*.

B. Peace with God is maintained through God's faithfulness

1. Those who place their faith in Christ have been given His peace –
 - a. **The very night before Jesus would go to the cross,** *(Jn 14:27; Jn.16:33)*
 - a. **After His resurrection** He would speak peace to His disciples 3 more times.
 - b. **Paul told those at Ephesus** that Christ is our peace *(Eph.2:14)* You see...
2. **Sin creates hostility between God & us.**
 - a. “How do I maintain my peace with God if I still sin?” *(1 Jn.1:9)*
 - b. Many people are battling God and experiencing chaos in their hearts and lives today for this reason. But they don't have to live that way because, *(II Th 3:16)*

II. A slice of peace with ourselves: Phil 4:7

A. Every believer has been given the choice to enjoy the peace which God has given.
The Holy spirit can spread this God-given peace into every area of a believers

heart. (it is a personal internal peace that not only deals with saving the soul but also living the life.)

- a. In the N.T. the word peace basically means “to bind together.”
- b. The word peace occurs 88 times in the N.Tm(peace = tranquility or serenity) like a country enjoys under a righteous leader.

We often describe peace using the negative; saying, peace is the absence of war, strife or violence. (*but peace is much more than the absence of problems, it is the presence of Jesus even in the midst of these things*).

B. Every believer can enjoy the peace they have been given. Phil. 4:7

Regardless of the turmoil that may be happening in our lives, in every situation & circumstance the Christian can chose to enjoy the internal peace the Spirit produces by following three daily steps.

1. **They must fix their minds on God** – *(Isa 26:3)*
2. **They must fall in love with His word** – *(Ps 119:165)*
3. **They must fill their hearts with His rule** – *(Col 3:15)*

More and more of God's peace will come into our lives as we allow God's peace to rule in our hearts.

III. A slice of peace with others: (Rom. 12:18)

We can have peace with ourselves because God's peace settles our inner conflicts. But did you know the Holy spirit seeks to produce peace in our personal relationships too?

- **Jesus said** – *(Matt 5:9)*
- **The Apostle Paul instructed** – *(Rom 12:18)*
- **The writer of Hebrews claimed** - *(Heb 12:14)*

One of the greatest pieces of evidence that we are filled with the Holy Spirit is that we are peacemakers not peace breakers!

A. We should be peacemakers at home – *we definitely need peace there!*

1. **Husbands** – *(Eph.5: 25)*
2. **Wives submit to your husbands as unto the Lord** *(Eph.5:22) (1 Cor. 7:15)*
3. **Children, you're to obey your parents in the Lord!** *(Eph. 6:1)*

B. We should be peacemakers at church – *(1 Cor 14:33; Rom 16:17-18; Eph 4:3)*

Living out the love of Christ goes a long way in keeping peace in the church!

C. We should be peacemakers in the world – *(Phil.4:6,7; Rom. 8:28; 12:8; Rom.12:1,2)*

Here are 4 examples Jesus instructed us in...

1. **Jesus tells us to love our enemies** *(Mt.5:43-47; Heb 12:14)*
2. **Pray for your enemies** –
3. **Bless your enemies** – *(Lk.6:28)*
4. **Do good to your enemies** – *(Lk.6:27)*

Conclusion: As refreshing as watermelons are to the desert, so is peace to a world that so desperately seeks it.

The fruit of the Holy Spirit provides a slice of peace for every believer!