

The Holy Spirit

Session # 6 / Wednesday, September 6, 2007

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT / PART TWO

Galatians 5:22-24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Last week we studied the first two of the fruit of the spirit, love and joy.

P E A C E

Since my birth early in 1931, there has never been a single day on this earth when there was not a war going on somewhere in the world. I can still remember World War II as if it were yesterday. I was only 8 when the Axis powers, Germany, Italy and Japan surrendered to the Allied powers but it still vivid in my mind. Today we have wars going on in Iraq and Afghanistan. One may erupt soon in Iran. Our Lord Jesus warned that in the last days THERE WOULD BE NO PEACE but there would be wars and rumors of wars (see Matthew 24).

Not only is there international lack of peace, but there is also INDIVIDUAL lack as well. Some physicians link as much as 75% of all diseases to inner turmoil - hatred, fear, anxiety or tension.

You and I do not live in an atmosphere of peace yet Jesus promised: **John 14:27** **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

Peace is a blessed fruit of the Holy Spirit. Through Him those in Christ learn that it is possible to know peace and serenity in the most violent storms of life. WE DO NOT SPEAK HERE ABOUT A TEMPORARY PLACEBO....SOMETHING TO TEMPORARILY GET OUR THOUGHTS OFF OUR PROBLEMS. We are talking about a peace that is developed by the Holy Spirit from within, not from circumstances without. This is the message of Psalm 91. **Psalm 91:1-16** **He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. [2] I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. [3] Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. [4] He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou**

1 trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. [5] Thou shalt not be afraid for the
2 terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; [6] Nor for the pestilence that
3 walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. [7] A
4 thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not
5 come nigh thee. [8] Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the
6 wicked. [9] Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most
7 High, thy habitation; [10] There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague
8 come nigh thy dwelling. [11] For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep
9 thee in all thy ways. [12] They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy
10 foot against a stone. [13] Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion
11 and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. [14] Because he hath set his love upon
12 me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my
13 name. [15] He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in
14 trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. [16] With long life will I satisfy him,
15 and shew him my salvation.

16

17 My theology professor in Bible School in the early '50's, Stanley Horton (still living and
18 teaching now in his 90's), wrote: *“Real peace comes only from the Holy Spirit. It
19 includes a quiet spirit, but it is more than that. It is the consciousness that we are in a
20 right relationship with God, a sense of spiritual well-being. It includes the assurance
21 that we can trust God to supply all our need (Philippians 4:19). Along with love and
22 joy it becomes the help of the Spirit for the development of the rest of the fruit.”*

23

24 WHY DID PAUL WRITE THIS 5TH CHAPTER OF GALATIANS?

25

26 The people of Galatia (a province in Turkey) were in conflict with each other concerning
27 church issues and doctrines. Instead of manifesting the fruit of the Spirit, these
28 followers of Christ were producing the works of the flesh: hatred, discord, jealousy, rage,
29 selfishness, disagreements and so forth. The Galatian Christians lacked the fruit of love
30 and peace which brings unity, harmony, tranquility and a quiet spirit.

31

32 I call your attention once again to a marvelous book, written decades ago, by Major Ian
33 Thomas called “The Saving Life of Christ.” (It may be in the Christ-Centered Book
34 Store and I checked today and found there are many copies new and used available on
35 Amazon) In that anointed book, Thomas teaches the biblical principle that when we are
36 born again, CHRIST’S LIFE COMES INTO OUR BODY LITERALLY. From that
37 moment on we live from HIS LIFE, not our own. The peace of God Himself begins to
38 develop within us. Like all good orchards, the trees must be nurtured and carefully
39 tended in order for the fruit to grow. Isaiah promises us that we can live in God’s
40 peace: **Isaiah 26:3** **Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on**

1 **thee: because he trusteth in thee.** Paul joins the discussion with this from **Romans**
2 **8:6** **For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and**
3 **peace.**

4
5 Peace with God begins with our conversion: **Romans 5:1** **Therefore being justified**
6 **by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

7
8 Our peace was paid for at dreadful price on Calvary: **Isaiah 53:5** **But he was**
9 **wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement**
10 **of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**

11
12 **THINK OF IT, FRIEND: YOUR PERSONAL PEACE WAS PAID FOR BY**
13 **JESUS ON THE CROSS!**

14
15 Paul gives us solid theology on our peace in **Ephes. 2:13-17** **But now in Christ Jesus**
16 **ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. [14] For he is**
17 **our peace, who hath made both (God and fallen man) one, and hath broken down**
18 **the middle wall of partition (our sin) between us; [15] Having abolished in his flesh**
19 **the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in**
20 **himself of twain one new man, so making peace; [16] And that he might reconcile**
21 **both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: [17] And**
22 **came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.**

23
24 Paul further challenged us: **Col. 3:15** **And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,**
25 **to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.**

26
27 **YOU AND I ALSO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY - THAT OF OUR OWN WILL**

28
29 **Romans 12:18**

30 **If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.** That
31 underlined portion means that part that depends upon you. The peace of the Holy Spirit
32 is first of all directed upward toward God....then inwardly to our inner heart and
33 spirit....and thirdly toward our fellow man. Peter challenged us: **1 Peter 3:11** **“seek**
34 **peace, and pursue it.” You have a responsibility in this “fruit of the spirit” as well.**

35
36 Secondly, we are to be peacemakers. In His classic Sermon on the Mount (the
37 Constitution of God’s Kingdom), Jesus taught: **Matthew 5:8** **Blessed are the pure in**
38 **heart: for they shall see God.**

39
40 **MATURE BELIEVERS LEARN TO RESPECT AND ACCEPT THE DIFFERENCES**

1 IN OTHER PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY OTHERS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. SO
2 PAUL TEACHES: **Ephes. 4:3-4 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in**
3 **the bond of peace. [4] There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one**
4 **hope of your calling;**
5

6 OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF THE PEACE OF GOD IN PEOPLES' LIVES
7

8 1. ABRAHAM Genesis 13 Quarreling was taking place between the herdsmen of
9 Abraham and those of his nephew Lot. To avoid conflict, Abraham put aside his rights
10 as head of the family and told Lot to choose whatever property he wanted. **THOSE**
11 **WHO ARE WILLING TO GIVE UP THEIR OWN RIGHTS IN ORDER TO BE**
12 **PEACEMAKERS ARE FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLE OF ABRAHAM.**
13

14 2. ISAAC Genesis 26 tells of Isaac reopening wells once dug by his father Abraham.
15 His enemies had filled them with dirt. Isaac never made an issue of this obstruction of
16 his rights and just kept minding his own business. **HE LEARNED THAT HAVING**
17 **PEACE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HAVING YOUR OWN WAY.**
18

19 3. DANIEL was thrown into a lions' den. Yet he could sleep peacefully all night
20 without fear because of his trust in God.
21

22 NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF THE PEACE OF GOD IN PEOPLES' LIVES
23

24 1. JESUS There could be no greater example. In Isaiah 9:6 he is called the Prince
25 of Peace. The first message preached after Jesus was born was one of peace (the angels
26 in Luke 2:14). When Jesus sent out the first preachers, He directed them to preach
27 peace (Luke 10:5). I Timothy 2:5 teaches us that Jesus on the cross was our mediator
28 between us and God, bringing peace.
29

30 2. THE EARLY CHURCH The believers often faced circumstances that could have
31 brought about conflict. Some were doctrinal (Peter and Paul taking the Gospel to
32 Gentiles); some were pragmatic such as the need for the first seven deacons in Acts 6.
33 But the Holy Spirit always enabled these early believers to find the mind of God and the
34 way of peace in all their conflicts.
35

36 **THE FIRST THREE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, LOVE, JOY AND PEACE, ARE**
37 **CONNECTED TO OUR RELATION TO GOD. NOW WE COME TO THE**
38 **FRUIT THAT ARE IN RELATION TO OTHERS.**
39
40

PATIENCE

Patience! And give it to me....NOW!!! That pathetic prayer reveals the attitude of many of US when it comes to giving God the luxury of time in dealing with us or with our dealing with those around us. Americans want instant realization of “wants” or wishes. We don’t understand the concept of “deferred gratification.”

Antonia Da Silva: “People often speak of ‘the patience of Job.’ Job suffered long and waited patiently upon the Lord before he received healing and the restoration of his family and possessions. Moses spent 40 years in the school of patience before he reached his potential in usefulness for the Lord. We are advised to ‘be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near’ (James 5:8). The development of patience in us is an important part of becoming like Christ.” (Abundant Living / ICI / page 108)

PETER’S CHALLENGE TO US:

2 Peter 1:5-8

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; [6] And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; [7] And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. [8] For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The definition of “patience” comes from the Greek word “makros” which means “long” and “thumia” meaning temper or disposition. Basically this fruit of the Spirit means “learning to wait upon the Lord without losing hope, admitting defeat, or being controlled by anger.” Patience as the fruit of the Spirit enables a believer to exercise SELF-RESTRAINT in the fact of testing. It is perseverance or endurance.

WHY IS PATIENCE SUCH A NEEDED FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

We need patience for the tough times of life, for those times we are ill, for those trials that so often beleaguer us on life’s pathway.

There those of “ultra-faith” teachings who attempt to tell us that the Christian does not have trials, does not get sick, does not have difficult times. How wonderful if only that were true. However, it is not true. Jesus Himself said, “In this world you have tribulation.” (John 16:33) So if Christ warned us against tough places in life, why are we so surprised when they happen? We need patience in those times.

1 **Hebrews 12:7-11** (The Message)

2 **God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear**
3 **children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training, [8] the normal**
4 **experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for**
5 **themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? [9] We respect our own**
6 **parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we**
7 **can truly live? [10] While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to**
8 **them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best. [11]**
9 **At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain.**
10 **Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves**
11 **mature in their relationship with God.**

12
13 1. Wisdom is born out of patience. **Proverbs 14:29**

14 **He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit**
15 **exalteth folly.**

16
17 This is one of my great challenges in life. If I can't learn something immediately, it
18 is very frustrating to me.

Illustration: Story of Pastor Jesse Smith and the great lesson of giving God the luxury of time.
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19
20
21 2. We need patience with raising children and grandchildren.

22
23 3. We need patience one with another. None of us is perfect. Paul exhorted us:
24 **Col. 3:12-13** **Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you**
25 **must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness,**
26 **and patience. [13] You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the**
27 **person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive**
28 **others.**

29
30 4. Patience builds up your faith (remember - it is impossible to please God without
31 faith - Hebrews 11:6).

32 **Hebrews 6:11-12** **And we desire that every one of you do shew the same**
33 **diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: [12] That ye be not slothful, but**
34 **followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

35
36
37 5. CONSIDER THE MANY TIMES GOD HAS BEEN PATIENT WITH YOU. As

1 His children, we are to be conformed to His image.

2
3 6. One of the most glowing tributes to the unsaved is the “patient life of Christ” flowing
4 from inside us.

- 5 • Patience in the market place with merchants, waiters, service personnel, etc.
- 6 • Patience with our teachers
- 7 • Patience with government officials
- 8 • I Thess 5:15 commands us to “be patient with everyone!”

- 9
10 • Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will conform us to this virtue.

11 12 **GENTLENESS (KINDNESS) AND GOODNESS - THE TWIN FRUIT OF THE** 13 **SPIRIT**

14 Galatians 5:22-23

15 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
16 [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

17
18 These twin virtues are so similar that they are often indistinguishable. A gentle person
19 is usually a good person. A good person is by very nature a gentle or kind person.

20
21 Did you, as a parent, ever notice that you always instructed your children to “be good?”
22 You never told them, “Be bad.” That just seemed to come naturally to one degree or
23 another. So gentleness and goodness are contrary, by and large, to our natural bent or
24 nature.

- 25
26 • Kindness (gentleness) comes from the Greek word *chrestotes* which denotes “a
27 gracious disposition in character and attitudes.” It encompasses tenderness,
28 compassion and sweetness.
- 29
30 • **Ephes. 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour,**
31 **and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: [32] And be ye kind**
32 **one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for**
33 **Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

34 **Ephes. 5:1-2 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; [2] And**
35 **walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an**
36 **offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.**

37
38 Over and over again in the Gospels we read that when Jesus was confronted by human
39 need, He was moved with compassion.

1 NOW HERE'S THE CHALLENGE: A PERSON IN HIS OR HER SPIRIT MAY BE
2 GENTLE OR KIND.....BUT THAT VIRTUE HAS TO BE EXPRESSED IN REAL
3 LIFE WHICH MEANS – GOODNESS. Goodness is the expression of kindness or
4 doing that which is good.

5
6 Scriptures relating to goodness:

7
8 **Romans 15:14**

9 **And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of**
10 **goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.**

11
12 Remember that Paul wrote this to the church at Rome, a church being bitterly
13 persecuted by Caligula, first of all, and then the insane and deadly Nero.

14
15 **Ephes. 5:9**

16 **(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)**

17
18 **2 Thes. 1:11**

19 **Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of**
20 **this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith**
21 **with power:**

Goodness speaks of service or ministry to one another, a spirit of generosity put into action, of serving and giving. It is the natural result of kindness – that inner quality of tenderness, compassion and sweetness. All of this is summed up in the word LOVE. Love is kind, which is the opposite of evil. Love is good, always seeking to minister to the needs of others.

- 22
23 • One of the earmarks of these two fruit of the spirit is GENEROSITY.

24
25 **Deut. 15:10-11**

26 **Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest**
27 **unto him: because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy**
28 **works, and in all that thou putttest thine hand unto. [11] For the poor shall never**
29 **cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand**
30 **wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.**

31
32 It is in giving that a person begins to understand the importance of not holding tightly to
33 those things which perish. Jesus said, Matthew 6:19-21 **Lay not up for yourselves**
34 **treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break**

1 **through and steal: [20] But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither**
2 **moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: [21]**
3 **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

4
5 First Assembly Ministries is a giving church and God has blessed us for it.
6 Someone said to me one day, “If we had put all the money into a sanctuary that we have
7 put into missions, we could have the nicest church in town.”

8 That’s just not true. Had we not become a missions church 20 years ago, this
9 building would have become a grain warehouse - or something. We have only been
10 blessed because we have given.

11
12
13 De Silva: “In many parts of the world, the work of the Lord suffers because of close-
14 fisted Christians. They give nothing, but also they receive nothing. When goodness
15 as the fruit of the Spirit is evident in a person’s life, it will be recognized by his rich
16 generosity, just as it was in the Macedonian church.” (Abundant Living / ICI / 144)

17 Jesus taught the principles of goodness and gentleness in His Sermon on the Mount, the
18 Constitution of the Kingdom: **Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye**
19 **would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the**
20 **prophets.**

21
22 *Next week, September 12th, the remaining fruit of the Spirit.*