

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is ...peace...*

Lesson 12

In this restless age there is a universal longing for peace. God has put that desire into human nature. Multitudes seek the repose of unruffled waters of a mountain lake. Is there such a peace – or do we have to wait for heaven to experience it? Did Christ mock the human heart when He said *My peace I give to you*? What kind of peace is it that Jesus gives? May the study of this lesson open your understanding and stir you to the quiet waters of Jesus' peace.

DAY ONE: Peace from God

1. God is the source of the peace man longs for. As we have seen in Galatians 5:22, peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It comes no other way. Many of the epistles (including Galatians) begin with the salutation or the desire of the author for the recipients to know and experience the *peace of God*. All persons of the trinity are involved in giving us peace. The Father has declared it for us, the Son has purchased it for us, and the Holy Spirit applies it for us.

Before you continue this study, take a few minutes and meditate on this peace that God has for you. Answer a few of these questions: How do I view the availability of this peace? Am I living in this peace? What are some things that are hindering me from experiencing God's peace? How does my thinking need to change so I can better experience God's peace? What actions/behaviors do I need to change so I can better experience God's peace? What needs to be "put off"? What needs to be "put on"?

DAY TWO: Peace with God

1. Peace with God has been referred to as “peace above us”; it is being made right with Him. How does Colossians 1:21 describe our relationship with God before we were saved?
 - a. Think back to your relationship with God at that time. What was it like?
 - b. In what way(s) were you God’s enemy?
 - 1.) How do Matthew 12:30 and Luke 16:13 help explain this?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-4 and describe the transition that takes place in a believer.
 - a. Once a person is justified (saved/declared right before God) what do they have? see Romans 5:1
 - b. What is it personally like for you to have *peace with God*?

DAY THREE: Peace of God

1. The peace of God has been described as “peace within us”. This is a peace that flows as a result of our relationship with God. We cannot have the peace **of** God until we have peace **with** God. However, all who have peace **with** God do not have the peace **of** God. They have the right to it; it is part of their inheritance as a believer, but they are failing to experience it. Jesus clearly promised in John 14:27, *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.* What are the two hindrances to *peace* mentioned in this verse?
 - a. In your own words, describe a *heart* that is:
 - troubled*
 - afraid*

b. Jesus did not claim to *give peace as the world gives*. Describe the peace the world gives.

1.) In what way(s) is the *peace* of Jesus different?

2.) What can happen if we expect from Jesus the kind of peace that *the world gives*?

2. Scripture describes the peace of God available to all believers. Using the following verses, underline or highlight the words/phrases that describe this peace.

Psalms 119:165 *Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.*

Isaiah 26:3 *You will keep him in perfect peace...*

Isaiah 48:18 *...Then your peace would have been like a river,*

Philippians 4:7 *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

a. List the words/phrases you underlined or highlighted.

1.) What are some words/phrases you would use to describe the *peace* of God?

DAY FOUR: Peace and the Responsibility of the Believer

1. Although peace is a *fruit of the Spirit*, we need to water the tree. Read the following verses, underlining or highlighting the instructions to the believer.

Job 22:21 *Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you.*

Psalms 37:37 *Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace.*

Psalms 119:165 *Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.*

Proverbs 3:(13)17 *Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace.*

Isaiah 26:3 *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.*

Isaiah 48:18 *Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.*

Romans 8:6 *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Galatians 6:16 *And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.*

Challenge: Refresh your memory by scanning Galatians and listing a few of the *rules* (concepts) Paul taught.

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

Colossians 3:15 *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

- a. Make a list of what these verses teach about the believer's part in experiencing the *peace* of God.

- 1.) Which one is most challenging to you? Why?

DAY FIVE: These Things

1. Read John 16:33 and record what Jesus said.
 - a. Jesus is referring to His message in the upper room the night before He was betrayed. What did He say His purpose was for the *things* He *spoke* to them?
 - b. Read John chapters 14-16 and record some of the *things* Jesus *spoke* that, if believed and applied, would bring *peace* to the heart of the believer.
2. We have not been left without an example. Record the words of Paul in Philippians 4:9.
 - a. Record the *things* Paul encourages us to meditate upon. Philippians 4:8
 - 1.) How does thinking upon *these things* promote *peace*?
3. Consider Paul's teachings and the example he set as a believer. What are some things that you *learned, received, heard, and saw* as you have studied Paul or heard messages about him that are an example to you as to how you can have *peace*?

DAY SIX: Review

1. Why do you think people long for peace?
2. Why is peace unattainable/unavailable to an unbeliever?
3. Why is peace attainable/available to a believer?
4. What are some hindrances to peace?
5. What are some ways to promote peace?
6. In what way(s) has this lesson inspired or challenged you?

*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.*

- Isaiah 9:6