

Why You Deeply Need This Manifestation of the Spirit in Your Life

For He is our peace, who has made both groups one and has broken down the barrier of the dividing wall..." (Eph. 2:14).

The word "peace" as used in the gospels and in Ephesians means to bind together those things that were separated. Jesus made peace through the blood of His cross (Col. 1:20), thus binding together the believing sinner and the holy God. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of peace in the life of that believer. This fruit is manifested in proportion to the believer's yieldedness to the Spirit.

Isaiah told God, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (Isa. 26:3). The battleground is the mind—"To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6). The apostle Paul speaks to all of us when he tells the Colossians to "Let the peace of God, to which also you are called in one body, rule in your hearts. And be thankful" (Col. 3:15). And we are to remember that that peace comes from the Holy Spirit. Peace comes as we take everything to God in prayer with thanksgiving: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will protect your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7). The life of the believer shows proper growth and development when the power of the Holy Spirit enriches that growth in character.

Since God is a God of peace (1 Thess. 5:23) and His Son is the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6), it follows that this endowment enables the believer to partake in the peace which is a part of the divine nature.

The fruit of the Spirit is a manifestation of Christ's nature

in the life of the Christian by the Holy Spirit. The peace of natural man is very different from the scriptural definition of divine peace. In human concept, peace implies mental tranquility, absence of tension, or a settlement of disputes. Peace, the fruit of the Spirit, is the secure and confident repose of the soul in God himself. Believers have composure of spirit in all circumstances because they are divinely insulated by the Holy Spirit, not from trials, but from the anxiety of life.

Divine peace has two aspects. The believer has peace with God (Rom. 5:1). The believer also enjoys the peace of God (Rom. 15:13). We must have peace with God before we can have the peace of God. Both are the fruit of the Spirit. Peace with God is the calm assurance that Christ's atonement for sin has reconciled us with God: we are His children. The peace of God is given to those who love His word: "Those who love Your law have great peace, and nothing shall cause them to stumble" (Psa. 119:165). In a song of praise, Isaiah says to God, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (Isa. 26:3). The Son of God did not make our peace and then retire. His abiding presence with us is the essence of divine peace. Paul prays, "Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way" (2 Thess. 3:16). Peace, the fruit of the Spirit, is Christ's gift to us. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27). After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and said, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19c). These powerful words conveyed the Lord's blessing upon the disciples; in fact they brought divine peace to the troubled hearts of His followers.

All the virtues of the fruit of the Spirit are to be shared with others. What would be the use of love if believers never manifested it to others? Divine peace is a part of Christian character; therefore, it is intended to witness of Christ in social interaction. Our Lord undoubtedly had this in mind when

He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God" (Matt. 5:9). The word "peacemaker" should not be restricted to the reconciliation of those at variance. The Christian peacemaker is an expositor of spiritual peace in all daily activities; words and behavior display the peace of Christ within him. This visible testimony is commended by James who shows its influence upon others: "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:18).

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