



Series: The Fruit of the Spirit
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS PEACE

- In developing our 2009-2010 theme, "Living Fully – Living Holy," we have seen that a holy lifestyle comes from inner transformation made possible by the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- To see the kind of transformation the Holy Spirit wants to accomplish, we are in a series of sermons on the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Today we will explore the fruit of peace.
- The meaning of peace in the New Testament needs to be understood in the context of the Old Testament concept of "shalom". This concept involves much more than the absence of conflict or turmoil, but rather implies the presence of true well-being as designed and made possible by God. Stated simply...

Peace with God produces the peace of God growing in and through our lives.

How is peace with God possible?

Jesus' sacrifice for our sin made possible our peace with God. (Romans 5:1-11)

- Our sin separated us from God and left us powerless to do anything about it. God's love reached us in our state of sin as Christ died to pay the penalty of this sin. We cannot earn this peace with God. All we can do is receive it by faith.

How does peace with God impact us?

God's Spirit makes possible the fruit of God's peace in our lives.

- God offers peace in place of anxiety. (Phil. 4:6-7)
- God offers peace in place of false guilt and shame. (Hebrews 10:19-23)

God's Spirit makes possible the fruit of God's peace in our relationships.

- As God's forgiveness has made our peace possible, we are to seek peace by extending forgiveness to others. (Rom. 12:18, Col. 3:13)
- In community, we find a place to bring God's peace into the fragmentation of our lives. (Heb. 10:24-25)

Discussion Starters:

How do you define peace? Does this definition encompass the Biblical concept of "shalom" as described in the sermon?

How have you experienced God's peace in the midst of stressful circumstances?

What factors in our culture work against peace? How can true Christian community foster peace?