

Fruit of Peace
Psalm 27:1, 34:1-22 (14)
(2-14-2010)

Today we look to another attribute of the Spirit of God that He has caused to dwell in His Children. (Gal.5:22) We have looked already at Love and Joy, both being primary in that they have an affect on everything else. Peace, like all others, is a noun. Its being present also has a profound effect on how and with what we motivate our life.

What peace, in this case is not, is a legal position. The whole world is found guilty before God. All are counted sinners. As sinners, everyone has been assigned death. As sinners, God's wrath rests upon each and every one, without exception. When a person comes in faith to the Lord Jesus and has their sins washed away in the watery grave of baptism, God's wrath is removed. There is now a legal peace between that person and God. (*Rom 5: 1 positional peace*) This peace that Paul talks of in Gal 5:22 is not positional peace. This peace is more of an attitude or mind set, and yet different. You might think of it as *residential peace*. (it dwells within)

This Peace is not altogether an absence of struggles, trials and persecution. *Circumstantial peace* is good if you have it, but that kind is dependent on the situation and not an internal response toward life and the living. The Peace that is a facet or attribute of the Spirit exists even in strife, persecution and adverse trials.

(Luke 10:5-6) When Jesus sent out the 70, he gave them instruction on another type of peace. "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not it will return to you." This is a deep well! This peace has to do with being

at ease, being comfortable with the nature and attitude of the householder and family. If they are distressed and uncomfortable, even hostile inwardly, it is perceptible. (rejectionarial?) For the emissary it is necessary to remove themselves and the grace that they bear from the availability of that household. They lose the opportunity to receive the grace package and in so doing bring full condemnation.

The Peace that Jesus gives His children is a calming of their emotions and intellect. The lost of the world do not have it neither do they comprehend it. (Rom 3:17 "and the way of peace they have not known.")

Jesus spoke of this peace in John 14:27 "Peace I leave you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, not let it be fearful." And also in 16:33 "these things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage I have overcome the world." (*Was Jesus at peace even when standing before Pilate?*)

The peace we are to nurture in ourselves is one that governs our attitudes. Rather than seek vengeance and retribution toward those in the world; we pursue and let our hearts dwell on better things. Rm.14:17, 19; Heb.12:14; 1Pt. 3:11. Jesus' peace said from the cross – "Father Forgive..." (See also Stephens' peace – Acts 7:60) How could Jesus and Stephen find the capacity to do this? Their peace flowed from knowing they were in the center of God's will.

Peace grows when we maintain or govern the mind and heart. (Jn.14:27b) "... do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Paul contends that we are to take the thoughts captive that set themselves up against the knowledge of God. (2Cor.10:3-5) Fears or timidity are identity issues, believe this - you are children of God and it is He who indwells you and empowers you to do His will.