

PEACE IS FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 5:23

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Everyone likes a little "peace" now and then, however the Christian has access to a kind of "peace" which is different from the ordinary "peace" most people talk about. As the Christian "walks" in the Spirit, there is a peace enjoyed by that person. Just what kind of "peace" does the Christian have that others don't? How does the Christian keep on having this "peace" and enjoy it to its fullest possibility?

I. WHAT KIND OF "PEACE" DOES THE CHRISTIAN HAVE?

1. "Peace" can sometimes be defined in a negative way:
 - An absence of something, such as conflict.
 - What would be "world peace?"
 - Would peace be present if a person stopped wanting things?
2. There are also positive things about "peace" as described in the Bible:
 - The Greek word "eirene" is used to define "peace":
 - such as peace between individuals, harmony, concord
 - the tranquil state of one who is assured of salvation through Jesus Christ and not fearing something bad from God and who is content with his/her present position.
 - The peace that God provides is:
 - a condition that is positive in nature.
 - a peace in which there is active fellowship, harmony and agreement between individuals.

II. THE SOURCE OF THIS SPECIAL KIND OF PEACE

1. This special kind of peace comes from Jesus Christ:
 - Prophecies speak of Jesus being the "Prince of peace" - Isaiah 9:6-7
 - Jesus came preaching peace - Acts 10:36
 - Jesus offers a special kind of peace:
 - the kind the world cannot give - John 14:27
 - the kind that one can possess even in the middle of bad times - John 16:33
2. The kind of peace that Jesus brings involves:
 - a peace with God - Romans 5:1-11
 - which comes when one is "justified by faith" - Romans 5:1
 - which brings with it rejoicing and love, even in bad times - Romans 5:2-5
 - which is made possible by Jesus' loving sacrifice of His blood - Romans 5:6-9
 - which continues because of His being resurrected - Romans 5:10-11; Hebrews 7:25
 - a peace with others - Ephesians 2:11-22
 - Jew and Gentile, anybody, who was once separated from one another, can be at peace with each other through Jesus Christ - Ephesians 2:11-14
 - that is made possible through the same way which one obtains peace with God - the death of Jesus Christ - Ephesians 2:15-16
 - Jesus came preaching peace to everybody - Ephesians 2:17
 - Paul describes this peace as:
 - a peace that allows access by one Spirit to God, the Father - Ephesians 2:18
 - a peace where every human being can be fellow-citizens with all the saints - 2:19a

- a peace where everyone can be a member of God's family - Ephesians 2:19b
- a peace where everyone can be a "temple" in the Lord, a place for God in the Holy Spirit to dwell - Ephesians 2:20-22
- a peace with one's own self:
 - peace within one's own self is a by-product:
 - of being at peace with God
 - of being at peace with others
 - When Jesus brings peace with God and others, peace within one's own heart naturally follows.
 - there is a peace that blesses the soul of a Christian from within:
 - this peace comes from God
 - this peace surpasses all ability to understand it
 - this peace serves as a stronghold to guard one's heart and mind - and it comes through Jesus Christ - Philippians 4:7
- When one is in Jesus, enjoying the blessings of justification, reconciliation with God and others, peace is just a natural byproduct.

III. HOW TO KEEP/PRESERVE THAT SPECIAL PEACE

1. Hanging on to, keeping, maintaining that peace with God and self has some requirements:
 - one must keep his/her mind set on God - Isaiah 26:3
 - one must love God's Word and obey/heed God's commandments - Psalm 119:165; Isaiah 48:18; John 14:23
 - one must be diligent in prayer - Philippians 4:6-7
 - one must fill his/her mind with spiritual thoughts - Philippians 4:8-9; Romans 8:5-8
2. Keeping peace with others has requirements:
 - one must be at peace with God first - Proverbs 16:7
 - if one is not at peace within his/her own heart, he/she can not hope to make peace with others.
 - making peace with God gives one peace within, therefore putting one in a better position to make peace with others .
 - one must make a strong effort to "pursue" peace, it doesn't just automatically happen - 1 Peter 3:8-12
 - peace must be looked for and hunted (pursued) - 1 Peter 3:11
 - Peter speaks of some of the necessary qualities: - 1 Peter 3:8-9
 - be of one mind
 - have compassion for others
 - love as brothers and sisters, tenderhearted and courteous
 - not returning evil for evil etc., but respond with a blessing - 1 Peter 3:10
 - pursuing peace does not mean that one must compromise truth:
 - the wisdom that is from above is "first pure, then peaceable" - James 4:17
 - if one wants to bear the fruit of righteousness, then it has to be "sown in peace by those who make peace" - James 4:18

CONCLUSION:

1. No Christian should ever forget that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and He:
 - came preaching peace
 - died on the cross to make peace possible with God, others and one's own self
 - is the way through which God grants peace - Luke 2:11-14
2. Peace is found in God's kingdom - Romans 14:17-19
 - Christians need to therefore: ***"let the peace of God rule in their hearts..."*** Colossians 3:15
 - Christians need to allow Jesus to give them His peace.
3. Christian, if YOU want the Lord Jesus to always be with you and to experience "peace that passes all understanding" then pay attention to what Jesus said to His disciples just before He ascended to heaven: ***Matthew 28:18-20***