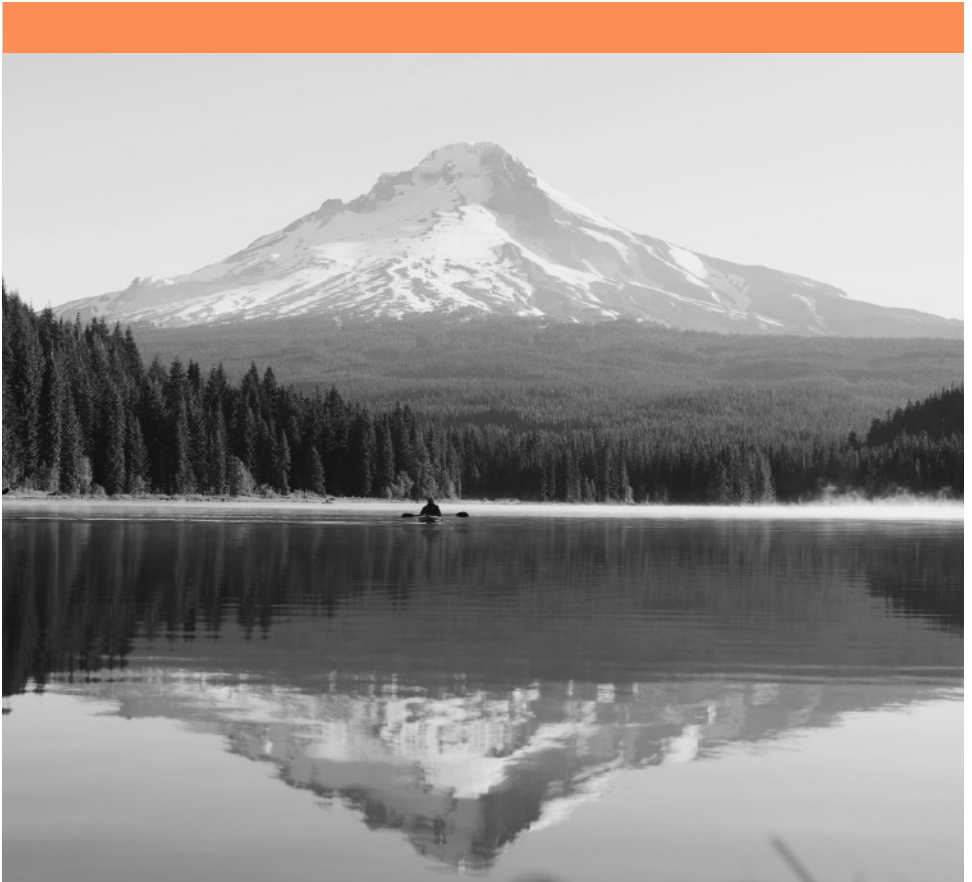


FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT DEVOTIONAL

PEACE



BP CHURCH

WEEK 3

“But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22–23, ESV)



Love (Agape): Unconditional, self-sacrificing love. It is the highest form of love and is often used to describe God's love for humanity.

Joy (Chara): Deep-seated gladness, delight, or rejoicing, often independent of circumstances.

Peace (Eirene): A state of tranquility, quietness, and freedom from disturbance. It can also refer to harmony in relationships.

Forbearance (Makrothymia): Patience, longsuffering, or endurance in the face of provocation or adversity.

Kindness (Chrestotes): Goodness, generosity, moral integrity, and benevolence in one's character.

Goodness (Agathosune): Moral excellence, uprightness, and kindness in actions and behaviour.

Faithfulness (Pistis): Fidelity, loyalty, and reliability in keeping one's promises and commitments.

Gentleness (Praytes): Meekness, humility, and a mild or gentle disposition.

Self-Control (Enkrateia): The ability to exercise restraint over one's impulses, emotions, and desires.

Scriptures

“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6, ESV)

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.” (Romans 14:17–19, ESV)

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13, ESV)

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:13–14, ESV)

“A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23, ESV)

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24–26, ESV)



**A HEART AT PEACE GIVES LIFE TO THE BODY
(PROVERBS 14:30, ESV)**

Day 1: The Source of True Peace

READ: “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” **(Romans 5:1, ESV)**

“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” **(Isaiah 53:5, ESV)**

THINK: Christians can experience a tremendous peace through Jesus Christ, who gives us peace with our Heavenly Father. When Christ died on the cross, He took away not only our sins, but the barrier between us and God, thus reconciling us to God and one another. At Jesus’ birth, the angels declare, ““Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace...” (Luke 2:14). This can give us great comfort that through Jesus Christ, there can be peace on earth for those who accept His work on the cross. The world is full of anxiety, worry, and chaos, but remember today the words of our saviour when He said, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”” (John 16:33, ESV)

DO: Spend some time today thinking about the peace that you have in Christ. Consider writing down some of the ways that peace, which passes all understanding, is guarding your heart and mind right now. What would your life be like without that peace?

“God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself because it is not there. There is no such thing.”

- C.S. Lewis

Day 2: Pursuing Peace in Relationships

READ: “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”
(Romans 12:18, ESV)

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”
(Matthew 5:9, ESV)

“Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.” **(2 Corinthians 13:11, ESV)**

THINK: People are not easy to get along with. We are moody, temperamental, easily offended, and at times selfish. This is why the Bible continually reminds us to be peacemakers, to practice living with ‘one another’ in mind, and to seek reconciliation whenever possible. Think of how quickly sin works to destroy relationships. In the garden after the man and woman disobey God, Adam blames Eve for the fruit (Gen. 3), Cain kills Abel (Gen. 4), and wickedness increases across the land (Gen. 6).

Since Christ has reconciled us to God, He has also given us this ‘message of reconciliation’ (2 Cor. 5:19) that we ought to model in our lives, striving to be peacemakers wherever we go.

DO: Today, think about how you’re connecting with others. Are there any disagreements or awkward situations that still need to be addressed? Take the first step and try being the peacekeeper in those relationships. Do your best to create an atmosphere of understanding and forgiveness in order to make amends. Keep in mind, you can’t always control whether you and others get along, but in your approach and as far as it concerns you, make sure your heart is right before God in all your relationships.

“Peace begins with a smile.”

- Mother Teresa

Day 3: Peace in the Midst of Chaos

READ: “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.” (**Isaiah 26:3, ESV**)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (**Philippians 4:6–7, ESV**)

THINK: In a world filled with uncertainty, change, and chaos, the peace that God offers is truly beyond human comprehension and is so desperately needed in our lives. The peace that the Bible speaks of is a peace that transcends any worry, hardship, or trouble that you may be facing.

DO: Today, reflect on the areas of your life that may be causing anxiety. Surrender them to God in prayer, trusting that His peace will reign in your heart, providing a foundation that withstands the storms of life.

Spend time in prayer, specifically presenting your worries and anxieties to God. As you do so, intentionally focus on thanking Him for His faithfulness and sovereignty. Write down your concerns and prayers in a journal, and reflect on how trusting God with these matters brings a sense of peace.

“Peace is not found in what surrounds us but in who dwells within us.”

- Beth Moore

Day 4: No Peace For the Wicked

READ: “Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.” **(Isaiah 59:7–8, ESV)**

““There is no peace,” says the Lord, “for the wicked.”” **(Isaiah 48:22, ESV)**

““Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”” **(Romans 3:15–18, ESV)**

THINK: Human history has been littered with murder, warfare, selfishness, and injustice. Those who participate in such actions are not far from their own devastation, ruin, and misery. This is why Isaiah and Paul in the Bible caution those who use their ‘feet’ to run head first into those practices will never know the peace that God has for them because they have rejected that path for themselves. We must continue to examine the direction of our lives and consider what path we want to be on - one that leads us to evil and iniquity or one that leads ourselves and others to peace.

DO: Today, think about all the ways you interact with those around you. Think of your family, co-workers, classmates, neighbours, and even the store employees you visit frequently. How are you treating them?

Where are your feet taking you - towards peace or destruction?

In what ways are you trying to walk a path of peace with those around you?

How could you stay on that path?

Consider what ways you are provoked that take you off that path of peace.



“When you have no peace, it is a sign that you are still in bondage to a person or a situation. If you have peace, it is a sign that you are in God’s will.”

- T.D. Jakes



**“TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; SEEK PEACE
AND PURSUE IT.” (PSALM 34:14 ESV)**

Day 5: Peace > Fear

READ: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
(John 14:27)

THINK: In these words, Jesus imparts a peace that transcends the temporary and fleeting peace that is often found in this world. The peace we receive from Him comes from a deep and abiding trust that God is sovereign and in control over everything. Regardless of the external circumstances and challenges in our lives, Jesus is inviting us to humbly come and receive a peace that only comes from Him and can quiet any fear or trouble that comes our way. In the midst of life's uncertainties, let us draw upon the peace that Christ graciously provides, trusting in His unwavering presence and the assurance that He has overcome the world.

DO: From the scripture above, we see three themes emerge: Christ's peace, not being afraid, and understanding that the kingdom of this world and God's kingdom operate on different principles. In the paragraphs below, consider:

Christ's Peace: Can you think of a time where you personally felt the peace of Christ in the midst of life's challenges? What made that situation unique?

How You Overcome Fear: Jesus encourages His disciples not to let their hearts be troubled or afraid. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to maintain peace and resist fear? Confess those fears in prayer and ask God for His peace in those areas.

How You Live Counter-Culturally: The world often promotes a peace that is dependent on external circumstances. How can we, as followers of Christ, live counter-culturally by demonstrating to those around us the peace He provides even when circumstances are challenging for us?

"Peace is not the absence of storms, but the presence of Jesus
in the midst of the storm."

- Unknown

"God's peace is more than a feeling; it is a deep and abiding
sense of security in Him."

- Charles Stanley

Peace In Scripture

Kinds of:

International	1 Sam. 7:14
National	1 Kin. 4:24
Civil	Rom. 14:19
Domestic	1 Cor. 7:15
Individual	Luke 8:48
False	1 Thess. 5:3
Spiritual	Rom. 5:1

Source of:

God	Phil. 4:7
Christ.....	John 14:27
Holy Spirit.....	Gal. 5:22

Of Christ:

Predicted	Is. 9:6, 7
Promised.....	Hag. 2:9
Announced	Is. 52:7

Lord's relation to, He:

Reveals	Jer. 33:6
Gives.....	Ps. 29:11
Establishes.....	Is. 26:12

Among the wicked:

Not known by	Is. 59:8
None for	Is. 48:22

Among believers, truths concerning:

Comes through Christ's atonement.....	Is. 53:5
Results from reconciliation.....	Col. 1:20
Product of justification.....	Rom. 5:1
Obtained by faith	Is. 26:3

Among believers, exhortations regarding:

Should live in.....	2 Cor. 13:11
Should pursue.....	2 Tim. 2:22

