



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY NOTE ON

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER – THE HOLY SPIRIT (Joel 2:28-32, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 2:16-21)

STUDY 19-13: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: PEACE & LONGSUFFERING OR PATIENCE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Gal.5:22, Isa.9:6, 53:5, Rom.5:1, Eph.2:11-18, Heb.4:16, Jn.15:15, Isa.26:3, Phil.4:4-7, Jn.14:17, 27, 2Thess.3:5, Heb.0:12-13, Rom.2:4, 9:22, 1 Tim.1:16, 1Pet.3:20, 2 Pet.3:15, Jas. 5:7-11, Rom.12:19; Lev.19:18.

A) THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – PEACE

Biblical peace is more than the cessation of hostilities. It is harmony, safety, friendliness, and relational tranquility. Humans are incapable of creating such conditions, as five minutes' viewing of any newscast will prove. Only God can establish peace.

The peace of God begins with God's making peace between Himself and mankind. God's contribution was to send Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isa.9:6), to submit His life (Isa.53:5). When we repent and respond in faith to the gift of God, He saves us, and peace is born (Rom.5:1).

However, the fruit of the Spirit includes a peace that goes beyond that of salvation. It is a sweet relationship. We are called to His presence (Eph.2:11-18) and called to be confident in that presence (Heb.4:16) because we are His friends (Jn.15:15). As Isaiah 26:3 says, "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You."

God's peace transcends earthly matters, as Phil.4:4-7 illustrates. Believers are to be "anxious for nothing," for God promises to "guard your hearts and minds." It is a peace "which transcends all understanding"; that is, to the worldly mind, such peace is incomprehensible. Its source is the Holy Spirit of God, whom the world neither sees nor knows (Jn.14:17).

The Spirit-filled Christian has a peace that is abundant, available in every situation, and unlike anything that the world has to offer (Jn.14:27). The alternative to being filled with the Spirit and His peace is to be filled with alarm, filled with doubt, filled with fear, or filled with anxiety.

"....**My peace**..." in this Scripture is not the conventional customary good-bye wish, this is Jesus' personal, special grant of peace. The peace that Christ gives banishes fear and dread from the heart, for Jesus is in control of all circumstances

B) THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – LONGSUFFERING OR PATIENCE

Listed fourth among the fruit of the Spirit is a wonderful quality translated "longsuffering" in some Bible versions and "patience" in others.

Those two English words are closely related, both associated with **endurance**.

There are two Greek words translated as "patience" in the New Testament. Hupomonē means "a remaining under," as when one bears up under a burden. It refers to steadfastness in difficult circumstances. Makrothumia, which is used in Gal.5:22, is a compound formed by makros ("long") and thumos ("passion" or "temper").

"Patience" in Gal.5:22 literally means "long temper," in the sense of "the ability to hold one's temper for a long time." The KJV translates it "longsuffering." A patient person is able to endure much pain and suffering without complaining. A patient person is slow to anger as he waits for God to provide comfort and punish wrongdoing. Since it is a fruit of the Spirit, we can only possess makrothumia through the power and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Patience comes from a position of power. A person may have the ability to take revenge or cause trouble, but patience brings self-restraint and careful thinking. Losing patience is a sign of weakness.

As the Spirit produces patience in us, He is making us more Christlike. 2Thess.3:5, Heb.0:12-13. Patience is God's nature, He's patient with sinners. Rom.2:4, 9:22, 1 Tim.1:16, 1 Pet.3:20, 2 Pet.3:15.

James urges believers to be patient and not to complain as we wait for Jesus to return. James holds up the prophets as models of patience (Jas. 5:7-11).

The opposite of patience is agitation, discouragement, and a desire for revenge. God does not want His children to live in agitation but in peace (Jn. 14:27). He wants to dispel discouragement and replace it with hope and praise (Ps.42:5). We are not to avenge ourselves; rather, we are to love others (Rom.12:19; Lev.19:18).

When we are patient, we leave room for God to work in our hearts and in our relationships. We lay down our schedule and trust in God's. We thank the Lord for what and whom He's brought into our lives. We let God be God.

NEXT: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - KINDNESS