

### Galatians 5:22-26

Gal 5:22 (NKJV) **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** <sup>23</sup> **gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.** <sup>24</sup> **And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** <sup>25</sup> **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.** <sup>26</sup> **Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**

We begin our study on the word “**peace**” which is the Greek word “*eirene*”. In the English language, we actually get our word “serene” from the Greek word “*eirene*”. It is a very common New Testament word that is used over 90 times in the New Testament. In the New Testament, the chief characteristic of the word is that it denotes the state of a Christian in this present life in which they have a very tranquil state of mind and soul because they have great assurance regarding their salvation in Christ. They understand that there is no longer any enmity between them and God because of the work of salvation that Christ has provided.<sup>1</sup> [Ephesians 2:15](#) says,

Eph 2:15 (NKJV) **having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace,**

[Colossians 1:21](#) says,

Col 1:21 (NKJV) **And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled**

I.e., the believer knows that they have been reconciled by God and with God. [Romans 5:1](#) says,

Ro 5:1 (NKJV) **Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Jesus Christ is the reason that we have peace. In fact, [Ephesians 2:14](#) says that He is our peace.

Eph 2:14 (NKJV) **For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,**

However, and this is very important to understand, our “**peace with God**” is not what Paul is actually addressing in this passage. What Paul is addressing is specifically something which has been given to us by God. It is called the “**peace of God**” that actually resides in our heart and in our mind. For instance, [Philippians 4:7](#) says,

Php 4:7 (NKJV) **and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

[Colossians 3:15](#) says,

Col 3:15 (NKJV) **And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.**

<sup>1</sup> Zodhiates, 520.

So, this peace that Paul is addressing is something that every believer already has, something that Dr. Zodhiates called a “present possession”.<sup>2</sup> Obviously, it may not be manifesting itself in very believer’s life if they are fretful and worried, but still it is a fruit that the Holy Spirit is developing and growing in their life. It is a supernatural tranquility, quietness, and calm that the Holy Spirit bestows on all believers as they grow in their faith. Whenever I meet a believer who is always unsettled, and someone who never seems to be able to be at peace with people and with their circumstances, I realize how much they need to allow the “**peace of God**” to “**rule in their hearts**”. The word for “**rule**” is a word that means to arbitrate and to govern.<sup>3</sup> It means to be an umpire and to prevail in our hearts.<sup>4</sup> It is a word that is asking believers to let the principles of Christ and the Word of God to govern and determine their actions, to actually control their life and their decisions.<sup>5</sup> This is the only place that this word “**rule**” is used in the New Testament, but what is interesting to me about this verb is that it is in the imperative mood which means that it is an actual command. It is also in the present tense, so it is to be an ongoing and continuous activity in our life. It is also in the active voice, which means that it is something that I as a believer must initiate.

So, exactly what is it that we are to allow to umpire and prevail and “**rule**” in our heart? Well, it is the “**peace of God**”, this tranquil state of heart and mind, this supernatural calm and quietness God has provided for our soul. Just let it govern your life. If you feel anxious about things, if you feel frustrated and unsettled about something, if you feel disturbed or annoyed by others, if you feel hindered and aggravated by people or by your circumstances, then this word is for you. Just let God’s peace settle you down, relax you, unwind you, and calm you down. I love this word because it is a word that is focused on relieving us of the tension that the world often creates in us. It can be an unpleasant interpersonal relationship we have with someone. It can be marital issues. It can be financial struggles we may be facing. It can be an unhealthy preoccupation in world events or worldly things that seem to unsettle us. When I think of Christ, I think of how He never seemed disturbed or frustrated with His circumstances or those who were assaulting and attacking His life. In His heart, He always allowed His Father’s will and His Father’s perspective to prevail and to triumph over whatever was happening in His life. In the same way, we also must allow His peace to prevail in our life and relieve our life of some of the unnecessary emotions and self-inflicted tensions that seem to override our better spiritual judgment at times.

You may be asking how can you know if you actually have this peace operating in your life, and how can you know if in reality it is ruling over your life. The Greek word “*eirene*” for peace actually comes from the Greek root verb “*eiro*” which means to join or bind together that which has been separated. It represents a state of inner rest, of well-being, and of being in harmony with others. So, the way that you can know whether or not this “**peace of God**” is actually governing your life is if you have this sense of inner tranquility of soul and spirit, even in the very midst of incredibly difficult and adverse circumstances that may be occurring in your life. Listen to what Jesus told His disciples right before He was going to be crucified in [John 14:27](#),

<sup>2</sup> Zodhiates, 520.

<sup>3</sup> Strong, *Greek word 1018*, electronic page (ep).

<sup>4</sup> Zodhiates, 348.

<sup>5</sup> Harris, *Greek word 1011*, ep.

**Jn 14:27 (NKJV) Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

The world gives you peace when everything is going well, when you feel totally secure, when you have no fear or dread. However, that is definitely not the context of this verse. To the contrary, these men were going to face the greatest trials and tests of their life. It was straight ahead of them and it would be adversity and trials and tests that they had never faced in their life. In the very midst of those kind of circumstances, Jesus said that He was giving them a supernatural peace so that they neither had to be troubled or afraid. The word “**troubled**” is the Greek word “*tarasso*” and it means to be agitated, to be disturbed with emotions of fear. It is a circumstance that agitates you, that afflicts you, that vexes you, and that is of such a nature that it disturbs you.<sup>6</sup> In the very midst of that kind of circumstance, Jesus told His disciples that He was giving them His peace so that their heart did not need to be troubled or afraid. When this “**peace of God**” is truly operating in your life, it just settles you down, it just calms your spirit, it actually relaxes you in the very midst of the difficult circumstance. That is how you know that you have this peace. Anybody may feel like they have this kind of peace in their life, but the only way to truly know is by going through these very trying moments and knowing that you are at peace with what God is allowing in your life. In [John 16:33](#), Jesus actually said it this way to His disciples when He said,

**Jn 16:33 (NKJV) These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

What an incredibly great verse – “**you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world**”. I say it all the time, but we must have God’s perspective on our life. He has overcome the world and any trial that it may bring into our life – and that is why we can have His peace. I want you to think of peace in this way. This supernatural peace, this fruit of the Spirit that is being developed in our life is NOT the absence of trouble, but rather the confidence that Christ is with us in the trouble and through the trouble.<sup>7</sup> That is much different than what the world wants you to think that peace is. The world wants to define peace as the actual absence of conflict, the absence of strife and struggling. However, that is not at all how the Bible describes peace. It is so often seen in the very midst of trouble and conflict.

One of my two life verses is [Philippians 4:6-7](#) which says,

**Php 4:6 (NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;<sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

The words “**be anxious for nothing**” are a present imperative verb with a negative which means that as a believer that I am to actually stop worrying about things. It actually says in the Greek Interlinear “**in nothing be anxious**”. The AMP Bible says “**Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything...**” The ISV says “**Never worry about anything...**” Now, we have to ask the obvious question – how in the world is that possible? Well, if we do not have this “**peace of God**” operating in our heart, I would say

<sup>6</sup> Zodhiates, 1366.

<sup>7</sup> Precept, *Galatians 5:22, peace*, ep.

that it is not possible. The believer who is not yielded to the Holy Spirit's guidance and ministry in their life will not have this peace. It is a very intelligent and conscious yielding to and depending on His work in our life. So, we want to ensure that we understand that this peace that Paul is addressing here in [Galatians 5:22](#) is NOT a peace that comes because we are not having any troubles and stressful moments, but is a very supernatural peace that is developed in the believer's life because of the trials. Stated another way, this peace is independent of our circumstances, and is developed in our life as the result of the belief that God is sovereign over all things in our life that may trouble us and make us anxious.<sup>8</sup> God's supernatural peace is a state of tranquility, calmness, and gentleness of spirit that transcends and surpasses life's difficult circumstances. It is actually stronger than our circumstances. So, the more that we grow in our understanding of God's sovereignty and of God's goodness towards us as believers, the more we will begin to understand how He is able to work all things together for good – and that creates His peace in our life.

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<sup>8</sup> Precept, *Galatians 5:22, peace*, ep.