

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-  
standing; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Psalms 119:165 “Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.”

**Quote:** “Peace means “binding together and is reflected in the expression ‘having it all together.’” MacArthur

**L**ike joy, peace is not dependent upon our circumstances. *Peace with God* through trusting in Christ brings with it the *peace of God*. “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have *peace with God* through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”<sup>1</sup> Peace is “the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.”<sup>2</sup> God declares righteous all who place saving faith in Christ. He gives us hope—the certain assurance of every not-yet-realized promise that is ours in Christ. Paul wrote, “Be *anxious for nothing*, 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 minds through Christ Jesus.”<sup>3</sup> Guard means “to be a watcher in advance, to mount guard as a sentinel; to hem in, protect:—keep with a garrison.”<sup>4</sup> Our peace rests in the truth that Almighty God is able to do above all that we ask or think, but is infinitely wise to do what is best for His glory and our good.

The peace of God produces a unique harmony that can only come through the Holy Spirit enabling those who are eternally secure in Christ to place the welfare of others ahead of their own desires. “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone

has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And *let the peace of God rule in your hearts*, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”<sup>5</sup> The peace of God acts like a referee that calms and overrules inward passions like anger and bitterness. It restrains revenge and sowing discord. It dwells upon the promise that when believers are right with God who controls ALL things, they do not need to be *fretful to the point of being distracted from faith in God* as their Provider, Protector and Purifier.<sup>6</sup> This peace makes them unwilling to provoke others, or to be provoked by them. It prompts them to be a peacemaker and an instrument of righteousness.

Jesus told His disciples, ““Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again and receive you to Myself*; that where I am, there you may be also.... *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. You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away *and coming back to you*.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.”<sup>7</sup> In these times of uncertainty, we who are at peace with God can rest in the peace of God that will culminate with the return of Christ, the Prince of Peace!<sup>8</sup>

## The Spirit's fruit, peace

<sup>1</sup> Romans 5:1; 15:13 <sup>2</sup> NT Greek Lexicon <sup>3</sup> Philippians 4:6, 7 <sup>4</sup> Strong's Greek Dictionary <sup>5</sup> Colossians 3:12-16 <sup>6</sup> Romans .8:26-39 <sup>7</sup> John 14:27-29 <sup>8</sup> “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21