



The Faith Messenger

Faith Community Wesleyan Church

"Christ Our Faith. Christ Our Hope. Christ Our Life"

2330 Hickory Valley Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
Sunday School 10:00am • Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am

Volume #2

Issue #3

May/June 2024

Issue Focus:
Fruit of the Spirit:
Peace

Birthdays

Gail Bullard	May 20
Antoinette Denor	May 27



Galatians 5:22-23

Galatians 5:22-23 list nine "Fruit of the Spirit," which are characteristics and behavior of the Spirit-filled life followers of Christ should have and show as evidence

of their true faith. The Faith Messenger has covered this year, Joy, Love and Faithfulness.

This issue, we cover PEACE. Learn the difference between peace with God and peace of God. See the dissimilarity of those who possessed true peace and those who fell short. Also, you'll learn how to gain and keep peace and what factors contribute to non-peace. We'll provide practical tips to cultivate lasting peace. Don't forget to look at what we have put in our photo collage of special events held at our church and our Memorial Day Tribute.

In Remembrance

On March 21, 2024, our beloved **Pastor M.C. Tolbert** went to his eternal home to be with Jesus. Our hearts are heavy from such a great loss, but we rejoice that he is free of pain and suffering, and eternally in the everlasting arms of His God, Jehovah!



On May 27, 2023, **Anna Laura Tolbert**, our beloved Pastor's wife, went to her eternal home to be with Jesus. We honor her memory of the

many contributions she made of her talents and deep passion for God and His Kingdom.

Thank you, Pastor M.C. Tolbert, for your and Anna's 10+ years of faithful, loving, sacrificial service to our congregation. We miss you both, so very much, but we rejoice in knowing that we, at Faith Community Wesleyan Church, will reunite with you again in Heaven.

What is Peace?

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word most commonly associated with the peace that God gives to those who obey, love, and follow Him is **שָׁלוֹם** (Shalom), referenced in Strong's Concordance as H7965. **Shalom encompasses much more than the absence of conflict; it denotes a sense of completeness, wholeness, health, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord, and more.** This rich and multi-dimensional concept of peace is foundational to understanding the peace that comes from God.

In the tapestry of the Old Testament, the quest for shalom is a central theme woven through the lives of its characters, their relationships with God, and their interactions with each other. King David and the prophet Elijah serve as stirring examples of this quest, each facing profound challenges that disrupted their peace, yet finding solace and restoration in God's presence.

King David, a man after God's own heart, experienced the range of life's highs and lows, from the euphoria of his victories to the depths of despair in his personal and public life. The Psalms, many of which were penned by David, capture this rollercoaster of emotions and his relentless pursuit of shalom amidst turmoil.

In Psalm 23, David expresses a profound sense of peace and trust in God, *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."* Here, shalom is not just a concept but a lived experience, a testament to the peace that God provides to those who follow Him, even in the darkest valleys.



Elijah's

story, particularly in 1 Kings 19, mirrors this journey from despair to

peace. After a significant victory at Mount Carmel, Elijah flees from Jezebel's threats into the wilderness, where he is enveloped by fear and loneliness, wishing for death. Yet, it is in this moment of utter desolation that God meets Elijah, not in the wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a gentle whisper.

This encounter highlights a pivotal aspect of shalom - it often surpasses our external circumstances, inviting us into a deep, inner peace that is rooted in the presence and assurance of God.

These narratives underscore a vital truth: **shalom is both a gift and a journey. It is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of something far greater - the comprehensive well-being that comes from being in right relationship with God.** This peace is not dependent on the absence of trouble but on the presence of God who walks with us through our trials.

As we reflect on the Fruit of Peace, let us remember that **this peace is not of our own making; it is the peace of God** that surpasses all understanding, guarding our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). It is a peace that is complete, whole, and restorative, offered to us as we walk in obedience and faithfulness to our Creator.

In our lives today, amidst the noise and chaos that often surround us, may we seek and find the shalom that comes from God, a peace that not only calms our storms but transforms us from the inside out, **leading us to a place of wholeness and harmony in Him.**



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Let's Pray

Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of peace that You have made available to us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. We are grateful that through faith in Him, we can have peace with You and the assurance of eternal life.

Help us to cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives, especially the peace that comes from abiding in Your presence.

When we face trials and tribulations, remind us to cast our burdens upon You, trusting in Your goodness and faithfulness. May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Almighty God, we acknowledge that true and lasting peace can only be found in You. We pray for a fresh outpouring of Your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may experience the peace that flows from Your throne of grace. Help us to trust in Your sovereign plan, even when we face uncertainties and challenges.

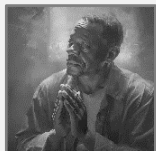
Give us the strength to forgive others as You have forgiven us, and to pursue peace in all our relationships. Help us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, trusting in Your ability to bring healing and restoration.

Gracious and merciful God, we thank You for the promise of perfect peace that awaits us in Your eternal kingdom. May we be filled with the peace of Christ, and may that peace overflow from our lives, bringing hope and comfort to those who are hurting. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Rock and Redeemer, Amen.

Scripture Memory

John 14:27

"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."



Pursuing Peace with God Quotes

These quotes reflect the profound understanding that true peace is not found in the absence of conflict but in the steadfast trust in God's sovereignty and goodness, even in the middle of life's greatest challenges.

Thomas Watson: "The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble."

Paul Chappell: "Because of the empty tomb, we have peace. Because of His resurrection, we can have peace during even the most troubling of times because we know He is in control of all that happens in the world."

A.W. Tozer: "The peace of God comes not by the removal of pain, but in the acceptance of it as the will of a loving God for the good of His servant."

Charles Spurgeon: "Peace is such a precious jewel that I would give anything for it but truth."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "There is no way to peace along the way of safety. For peace must be dared; it is itself the great venture and can never be safe."

Quotes About Pursuing Peace with Others

These quotes summarize the essence of pursuing peace with others, emphasizing love, forgiveness, unity, justice, and active goodness as foundational elements in building and keeping peaceful relationships.

St. Francis of Assisi: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Peace means giving oneself completely to God's commandment, wanting no one to be disturbed by me, to bring peace to others. Peace means to be in harmony with oneself and with God."

Mother Teresa: "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Martin Luther King Jr.: "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice."

John Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."



The Nehemiah Award Beth Pickering, Recipient

Congratulations to Beth Pickering who was recently awarded **The Nehemiah Award for "Excellence in Lay Ministry,"** by the Kentucky-Tennessee District of the Wesleyan Church. Her well-deserved plaque states...

"With grateful appreciation for your willing service as a 'Nehemiah' at Faith Community Wesleyan Church. You have cared enough to get involved. You have kept your focus on God, you have refused to quit when challenges have increased, and you have sought to build and defend the church simultaneously. We celebrate how God has used you to touch lives for Him. Well done, good and faithful servant."



*District Superintendent
Aaron Sherman presenting Beth,
the Nehemiah Award*



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COMPARISON OF BIBLICAL CHARACTERS WHO POSSESSED PEACE AND THOSE WHO LACKED

In Peace

Character	Situation	Response	Outcome	Key Scripture
Paul & Silas	Imprisoned and beaten	Praised God despite circumstances	Earthquake frees them; they are still unharmed	Acts 16:25-26
David	Fleeing from Saul	Trusted in God's protection and sovereignty	Became king despite adversity	Psalms 57:1-3
Job	Lost family, wealth, and health	Maintained faith in God's justice and goodness	Restored to greater prosperity and blessing	Job 1:21; 42:10-17
Daniel	Faced lions' den for praying to God	Continued faithful prayer, trusted in God's deliverance	Delivered from lions, honored by the king	Daniel 6:10, 16-23
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego	Threatened with fiery furnace for not worshipping idol	Refused to compromise faith, trusted in God's deliverance	Delivered from fire, no harm came to them	Daniel 3:16-28

Lacked Peace

Character	Situation	Response	Outcome	Key Scripture
Saul	Facing the Philistine army	Relied on his own timing instead of God's	Lost kingdom and divine favor	1 Samuel 13:8-14
Judas Iscariot	Betrayed Jesus	Acted on greed and later despair	Ended his own life in turmoil	Matthew 27:3-5
King Ahab	Coveted Naboth's vineyard	Acted unjustly to get it, led by greed	Faced divine judgment and downfall	1 Kings 21:1-29
Pharaoh of Egypt	Hardened heart against letting Israelites go out of Egypt to worship God	Relied on his own power and defied God	Plagued by disasters, ultimately lost firstborn, and army	Exodus 7-14
Esau	Despised his birthright for immediate gratification	Acted impulsively, prioritized physical needs over spiritual blessings	Lost his birthright and blessing	Genesis 25:29-34, Hebrews 12:16-17

In Peace: Characters like Job, Daniel, and the trio of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego show extraordinary peace in life-threatening situations, showing that peace is deeply rooted in unwavering faith and trust in God's sovereignty and goodness, regardless of outcomes.

- ❖ **Lacking Peace:** Figures such as King Ahab, Pharaoh of Egypt, and Esau illustrate how peace evades those who act out of greed, defiance against God, or impulsive desires. Their stories serve as cautionary tales about the consequences of prioritizing worldly gains or solutions over spiritual trust and obedience.





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PRACTICAL TIPS FOR CULTIVATING PEACE IN DAILY LIFE

- 1 Establish a daily devotional routine: Set aside a specific time each day for prayer, Bible reading, and meditation on God's Word. This practice will help you focus your mind on God's truth and experience His peace (Psalm 119:165).
- 2 Memorize and recite peace-related scriptures: Choose a few scriptures about peace, such as Philippians 4:6-7 or John 14:27 and commit them to memory. Recite these verses when you feel anxious or troubled, allowing God's Word to bring comfort and peace to your heart (Psalm 119:11).
- 3 Practice gratitude: Make a habit of thanking God for His blessings, both big and small. Keep a gratitude journal, listing at least three things you are grateful for each day. Focusing on God's goodness and faithfulness will help you keep a peaceful and content heart (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- 4 Engage in Christian fellowship: Regularly attend church services, Bible studies, and prayer meetings. Surround yourself with fellow believers who can encourage, support, and pray with you. Sharing your burdens and joys with others can help you find peace and strength in community (Galatians 6:2).
- 5 Serve others: Look for opportunities to serve within your church and community. Volunteer for ministry projects, help those in need, or offer your skills and talents to bless others. Shifting your focus from your own concerns to the needs of others can bring a sense of purpose, fulfillment, and peace (Mark 10:45).
- 6 Practice forgiveness: Make a conscious effort to forgive those who have hurt or wronged you, just as Christ has forgiven you. Release bitterness, resentment, and anger through prayer, trusting God to bring healing and restoration. Forgiving others will free you from the burden of unforgiveness and allow you to experience greater peace (Ephesians 4:31-32).
- 7 Limit exposure to negative media: Be mindful of the media content you consume, including television, news, and social media. Excessive exposure to negative or stressful content can contribute to anxiety and disrupt inner peace. Instead, focus on uplifting and encouraging resources that promote spiritual growth and peace (Philippians 4:8).
- 8 Seek godly counsel: If you are struggling with persistent anxiety, fear, or other issues that hinder your peace, don't hesitate to seek godly counsel. Reach out to your pastor, a trusted Christian mentor, or a professional Christian counselor who can offer Biblical guidance, support, and prayer (Proverbs 11:14).



DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN,
THE PEACE *WITH* GOD
AND...
THE PEACE *OF* GOD?

Peace *with* God, achieved through faith in Christ, is the foundation for experiencing the Peace *of* God, an inner tranquility and rest from abiding in Him. As believers we cultivate both aspects of peace, so that we can face life's challenges with hope, be agents of reconciliation, and look forward to the ultimate peace in Christ's future kingdom.



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FACTORS THAT STEAL / HINDER YOUR PEACE (AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT)

Category	Factors that Steal Peace	Scriptures	Suggestions for Overcoming
Personal Factors	Unconfessed sin. Lack of faith or trust in God. Unforgiveness or bitterness. Pride or self-reliance. Distorted view of God or self.	Psalms 32:3-5, James 1:6-8, Ephesians 4:31-32, Proverbs 16:18, Romans 12:3	Regularly confess sin and repent (1 John 1:9). Strengthen faith through prayer and Bible study (Romans 10:17). Choose to forgive and release bitterness (Colossians 3:13). Humble yourself before God (James 4:10). Meditate on God's character and your identity in Christ (Psalm 139).
External Circumstances	Financial difficulties. Relationship conflicts. Health issues. Job stress or instability. Trauma or loss.	Philippians 4:19, Romans 12:18, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Colossians 3:23-24, Psalm 34:18	Trust in God's provision (Matthew 6:25-34). Seek reconciliation and practice forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32). Find strength and comfort in Christ (Isaiah 41:10). Work as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23-24). Grieve with hope and seek support (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).
Spiritual Warfare	Temptation and sin. Attacks on faith. Discouragement or despair. Deception or false teachings. Idolatry or misplaced priorities.	1 Corinthians 10:13, Ephesians 6:16, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 1 Timothy 4:1, 1 John 5:21	Resist temptation and flee from sin (James 4:7). Stand firm in faith and trust God's promises (1 Peter 5:9). Find hope and encouragement in God's Word (Romans 15:4). Test teachings against Scripture (Acts 17:11). Keep God first and avoid idols (Matthew 6:33).
Mental and Emotional Struggles	Anxiety or worry. Fear or phobias. Depression or mood disorders. Unresolved grief or pain. Addictions or unhealthy coping mechanisms.	Philippians 4:6-7, 2 Timothy 1:7, Psalm 42:11, Isaiah 61:1-3, 1 Corinthians 10:13	Give anxieties to God through prayer (1 Peter 5:7). Meditate on God's love and promises (1 John 4:18). Seek professional help and support (Proverbs 11:14). Find healing and comfort in Christ (Psalm 147:3). Replace unhealthy habits with reliance on God (2 Corinthians 12:9).
Relational Dynamics	Unhealthy boundaries. Toxic or abusive relationships. Unforgiveness or resentment. Gossip or slander. Isolation or loneliness.	Proverbs 4:23, 1 Corinthians 15:33, Mark 11:25, Proverbs 16:28, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10	Set and keep healthy boundaries (Proverbs 25:17). Seek wise counsel and prioritize safety (Proverbs 11:14). Choose forgiveness and release bitterness (Ephesians 4:31-32). Speak truth in love and avoid gossip (Ephesians 4:15). Cultivate godly relationships and community (Hebrews 10:24-25).
Worldly Influences	Materialism or greed. Comparison or envy. Media or entertainment. Cultural pressures or expectations. Busyness or overcommitment.	1 Timothy 6:10, Galatians 6:4, Psalm 101:3, Romans 12:2, Luke 10:41-42	Cultivate contentment and generosity (Philippians 4:11-13). Focus on personal growth and gratitude (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Guard your heart and mind (Proverbs 4:23). Renew your mind and discern God's will (Romans 12:2). Prioritize rest and solitude with God (Mark 6:31).
Spiritual Disciplines (lack of)	Neglecting prayer. Infrequent Bible study or meditation. Lack of fellowship or accountability. Inconsistent worship or gratitude. Failure to serve or give.	1 Thessalonians 5:17, Psalm 119:11, Hebrews 10:24-25, Psalm 100:4, 1 Peter 4:10	Establish a consistent prayer life (Colossians 4:2). Study and meditate on Scripture daily (Joshua 1:8). Engage in fellowship and accountability (Proverbs 27:17). Cultivate a heart of worship and gratitude (Colossians 3:16). Serve others and give generously (Matthew 25:40).
Eternal Peace (lack of)	Rejecting Christ as Savior. Unbelief or hardness of heart. Persistent, unrepentant sin. Falling away from faith. Embracing false teachings or ideologies.	John 3:36, Hebrews 3:12-13, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 6:4-6, Galatians 1:6-9	Acknowledge sin and accept Christ as Savior (Romans 10:9-10). Cultivate faith through God's Word and the Holy Spirit (Romans 10:17). Confess and repent of sin regularly (1 John 1:9). Persevere in faith and abide in Christ (John 15:4-6). Study Scripture to discern truth from error (2 Timothy 3:16-17).



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THE FIVE TYPES OF PEACE

Type of Peace	Original Term(s)	Description	Application	Scripture
Peace with God	Eirēnē (Greek: εἰρήνη)	This peace is the reconciliation between God and humanity through Christ.	Trusting in Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, leading to a restored relationship with God.	Romans 5:1 ("Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.")
Internal Peace	Eirēnē (Greek: εἰρήνη); Shalom (Hebrew: שָׁלוֹם)	A state of tranquility or contentment within, regardless of external circumstances.	Cultivating a deep trust in God's sovereignty and goodness, regardless of life's storms.	Philippians 4:7 ("And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.")
Peace with Others	Eirēnopoios (Greek: εἰρηνοποιός)	Harmonious relationships and the absence of conflict with fellow humans.	Practicing forgiveness, understanding, and love in our interactions and relationships.	Matthew 5:9 ("Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.")
Peace of Creation	Shalom (Hebrew: שָׁלוֹם)	The harmony and order within the natural world as intended by God.	Stewarding creation responsibly and living in a way that promotes ecological harmony.	Isaiah 11:6-9 ("The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat... They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.")
Eschatological Peace (Relating to death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind)	Shalom (Hebrew: שָׁלוֹם); Eirēnē (Greek: εἰρήνη)	The ultimate peace that will be realized in the new creation.	Living in hopeful anticipation of Christ's return and the establishment of His everlasting peace.	Revelation 21:4 ("He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.")

STUDY NOTES

Peace with God (Eirēnē)	The Greek term "eirēnē" is often used in the New Testament to denote a state of reconciliation and harmony, particularly in the context of one's relationship with God through Christ.
Internal Peace (Eirēnē/Shalom)	Both "eirēnē" and "shalom" capture the concept of internal peace. While "eirēnē" is used in the New Testament to describe the peace that transcends understanding, "shalom" in the Old Testament encompasses wholeness, completeness, and well-being.
Peace with Others (Eirēnopoios)	"Eirēnopoios," meaning peacemaker, is used in the Beatitudes to describe those who actively promote peace among people, reflecting God's desire for harmony in human relationships.
Peace of Creation (Shalom)	"Shalom" in this context refers to the ideal state of peace and harmony in the created order, a theme that is especially prominent in Old Testament prophecies concerning the messianic kingdom.
Eschatological Peace (Shalom/Eirēnē)	Both terms are used to describe the future state of perfect peace that will be proved with the fulfillment of God's promises, marking the end of conflict and the restoration of harmony in all creation.



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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PEACE

Question	Answer
What are the two distinct aspects of peace mentioned in the New Testament?	Peace with God and the peace of God.
How does the Old Testament Hebrew word "shalom" describe peace?	Shalom describes peace as completeness, wholeness, and well-being.
What does it mean to have peace with God?	Having peace with God means being reconciled to Him through faith in Jesus Christ.
How can one gain peace with God?	By acknowledging sin, repenting, and placing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
What is the difference between peace with God and the peace of God?	Peace with God is the foundation, while the peace of God is the inner tranquility that follows.
According to Philippians 4:7, what kind of peace does God offer to believers?	The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.
How can a believer cultivate the peace of God in their life?	By prayer, meditating on Scripture, obeying God and trusting in His sovereignty.
What role does the Holy Spirit play in granting peace to believers?	The Holy Spirit produces peace as a fruit or outgrowth in the lives of believers.
How does peace relate to other fruit of the Spirit?	Peace is interconnected with love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
What does Jesus promise to His disciples regarding peace in John 14:27?	Jesus promises to give His peace, which is different from the world's peace.
How can the peace of God help believers face trials and tribulations?	The peace of God provides strength, comfort, and the ability to trust in God's plan during difficulties.
According to Romans 12:18, what should be the believer's attitude toward living at peace with others?	Believers should strive to live at peace with everyone, as far as it depends on them.
What are some personal factors that can hinder one's peace?	Unconfessed sin, lack of faith, unforgiveness, pride, and a distorted view of God or self.
How can external circumstances affect a person's sense of peace?	Financial difficulties, relationship conflicts, health issues, job stress, or trauma can disrupt peace. Unbelief in God's power, truth, faithfulness also prevents peace.
In what ways can spiritual warfare affect a believer's peace?	Temptation, attacks on faith, discouragement, deception, and idolatry can hinder peace.
What role do mental and emotional struggles play in disrupting peace?	Anxiety, fear, depression, unresolved grief, and addictions can steal peace.
How can unhealthy relational dynamics steal one's peace?	Unhealthy boundaries, toxic relationships, unforgiveness, gossip, and isolation can affect peace.
What worldly influences can distract believers from experiencing true peace?	Materialism, comparison, negative media, cultural pressures, and busyness can hinder peace.
How does a lack of spiritual disciplines affect a person's peace?	Neglecting prayer, Bible study, fellowship, worship, and service to others can disrupt peace.
What are the consequences of rejecting Christ as Savior in relation to eternal peace?	Rejecting Christ leads to a lack of peace with God and the absence of eternal peace.
How can believers keep peace in their relationships with others?	By practicing forgiveness, compassion, and effective communication, and by setting healthy boundaries.
According to Colossians 3:15, what should rule in the hearts of believers?	The peace of Christ should rule in the hearts of believers.
What role does prayer play in experiencing and keeping peace in a believer's life?	Prayer helps believers cast their anxieties on God, seek His guidance, and align their hearts with His will, fostering peace.



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THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF FIVE OF THE NINE, FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- **Joy** is the strength that underlies the other Fruit; it sustains patience and is a product of experiencing God's love and faithfulness.
- **Love** is the root from which all other Fruit grow; it motivates patience, is comforted by peace, and is joyful in its expression.
- **Faithfulness** is the anchor; it stabilizes our peace, fuels our joy, and is steadfast through patience.
- **Peace** is the calm amidst storms, nurtured by joy, rooted in love, and steadied by faithfulness.
- **Patience** is the endurance that is fed by joy, softened by love, grounded in faithfulness, and calmed by peace.



Joy and Patience	Romans 12:12 ("Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.")
Love and Peace	Colossians 3:14-15 ("And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...")
Faithfulness and Joy	Psalms 32:11 ("Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!")
Peace and Faithfulness	Psalms 85:10 ("Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.")
Patience and Love	1 Corinthians 13:4 ("Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.")

Fruit of the Spirit	↓ Joy	↓ Love	↓ Faithfulness	↓ Peace	↓ Patience
Definition	Deep gladness in God	Selfless affection	Steadfast loyalty	Tranquility in faith	Endurance without complaint
Key Scripture	Nehemiah 8:10; Philippians 4:4	1 Corinthians 13:4-7; John 15:12	Lamentations 3:22-23; 1 Corinthians 1:9	Isaiah 26:3; John 14:27	James 5:7-8; Colossians 1:11
OT Example	David in Psalms	Ruth's loyalty	Job's perseverance	David's refuge in God	Job's endurance
NT Parallel	Paul's joy in prison (Philippians 1:12-14)	Jesus' sacrifice (Ephesians 5:2)	Paul's faithfulness (2 Timothy 4:7)	Jesus' peace promise (John 16:33)	Jesus' patience with disciples (2 Peter 3:9)
Interconnectedness	Foundation for strength	Basis for all virtues	Anchors joy and love	Fruits of trust in God	Sustained by joy, love, and faithfulness



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FAITH CHAMPIONS WHO EXEMPLIFIED THE VIRTUE OF PEACE

Peace and patience in the biblical sense are deeply intertwined with faith in God's plan and timing. They are not merely passive states but active trusts in God's providence, even in the face of adversity.

Job

Patience and Peace in Suffering

Scripture References: Job 1:21, Job 2:10, Job 42:10-17

Job's life was a testament to unparalleled patience and an unwavering sense of peace amidst profound suffering. Despite losing his wealth, his children, and being afflicted with painful sores, Job kept his integrity and faith in God.

His response to his first losses, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised" (Job 1:21), reflects a deep-seated peace that transcends human understanding.

Throughout his trials, Job's patience was clear as he waited for God's response, refusing to curse God despite the encouragement to do so from those around him, including his wife. His story culminates in God's vindication of his patience and faith, restoring his fortunes twofold and blessing the latter part of his life more than the former (Job 42:10-17).

David

Finding Peace in God's Presence

Scripture References: 1 Samuel 24:6-7, Psalm 23:1-3, Psalm 27:14

David's life was marked by numerous trials, from his confrontation with Goliath to his flight from King Saul's jealous rage. Despite these tumultuous circumstances, David consistently found peace in his relationship with God, often expressed through his psalms.

In Psalm 23, David articulates a profound sense of peace and trust in God, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing... He leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul" (Psalm 23:1-3).

His patience is clear in his refusal to harm Saul, recognizing Saul's anointed status and waiting for God's timing for his own kingship. David's life proves that peace and patience are rooted in a deep trust in God's sovereignty and goodness.

Paul

Peace and Patience in Ministry

Scripture References: Philippians 4:6-7, 2 Corinthians 12:10, Romans 5:3-4

The Apostle Paul's ministry was filled with hardships, including imprisonment, beatings, and constant opposition. Yet, his letters to the early churches are infused with an enduring sense of peace and a call to patience.

In Philippians 4:6-7, Paul writes from prison, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

His patience is exemplified in his long-term commitment to spreading the Gospel despite numerous setbacks and his encouragement to believers to endure trials with perseverance (Romans 5:3-4).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 – 1945)

Steadfast Peace in the Face of Evil

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian born in the early 20th century, stood as a beacon of peace and resistance against the Nazi regime. His theological writings and active involvement in the Confessing Church highlighted his commitment to peace, justice, and the ethical responsibilities of the Christian faith.

Despite the dangers, Bonhoeffer remained patient and steadfast in his opposition, contributing profoundly to Christian ethics and paying the ultimate price for his convictions. His legacy continues to inspire those who look to live out their faith in challenging circumstances.

St. Francis of Assisi (1181 – 1226)

Peace and Harmony with Creation

St. Francis of Assisi, born in Italy in the late 12th century, is celebrated for his profound connection to peace and all of creation. Embracing a life of poverty and simplicity, Francis sought harmony with nature, animals, and people, embodying a peace that transcended mere absence of conflict.

His famous Prayer of Peace, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace," reflects his deep desire to spread love, forgiveness, and understanding. Francis's patience and gentle spirit in his approach to Christian ministry and his respect for all living things have made him a timeless symbol of peace and compassion.

Peace



The Faith Messenger

Faith Community Wesleyan Church

"Christ Our Faith. Christ Our Hope. Christ Our Life"

2330 Hickory Valley Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421

Sunday School 10:00am • Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am

Volume #2

Issue #3

May/June 2024

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HYMNS ABOUT GOD'S PEACE



"It Is Well with My Soul" by Horatio G. Spafford (1873)



Horatio G. Spafford wrote this hymn after a series of tragic events in his life. He first lost his son to

pneumonia, then

faced financial ruin due to the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. The most devastating blow came when the ship carrying his wife and four daughters to Europe sank, claiming the lives of his daughters.

His wife's telegram, "Saved alone," prompted Spafford to pen this hymn as he sailed to meet her. Despite his unimaginable grief, the hymn's words, "When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul," reflect a transcendent peace rooted in unwavering faith in God's goodness.

"Be Still, My Soul" by Katharina A. von Schlegel (1752), translated by Jane L. Borthwick (1855)

Katharina A. von Schlegel's circumstances are still largely unknown, but her hymn "Be Still, My Soul" speaks to a universal experience of facing life's storms. The hymn, beautifully translated by Jane L. Borthwick, offers comfort and reassurance of God's unchanging nature and His ultimate control over our lives.

The verse, "Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake to guide the future, as He has the past," encourages believers to trust in God's providential care, finding peace in the assurance that He holds our future securely in His hands.

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" by John Fawcett (1782)

John Fawcett, who was to leave his small, beloved church in Wainsgate for a larger church in London, was moved by the tearful farewell of his congregation, which led him to decide to stay in Wainsgate.

Out of this experience, he wrote "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," reflecting the deep connections and shared burdens within the Christian community.

The hymn emphasizes the peace and solace found in Christian fellowship, particularly during times of parting or sorrow, highlighting the spiritual bond that offers strength and comfort: "We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear."

"Lead, Kindly Light" by John Henry Newman (1833)

John Henry Newman wrote "Lead, Kindly Light" during a challenging period when he was recovering from a severe illness in Sicily, feeling isolated and uncertain about his future and vocation.

His journey back to England was delayed, leaving him stranded and reflecting on his life's direction. In this context of personal crisis, Newman's hymn became a prayer for divine guidance and trust in God's timing: "Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom, lead Thou me on; the night is dark, and I am far from home; lead Thou me on."

The hymn expresses a heartfelt yearning for God's presence and light to navigate through life's darkest moments, finding peace in surrendering to His lead.





Rev. Phillip Bartlett



Tracy Coats & Beth Pickering



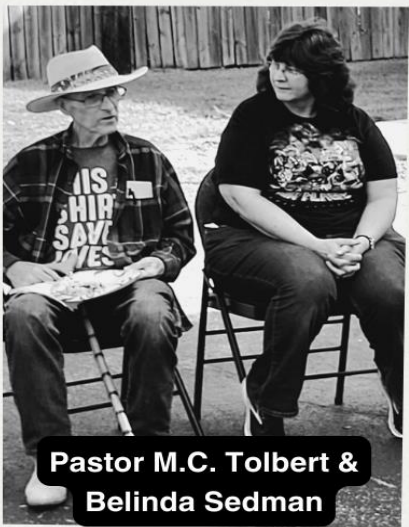
Cheryl Kyle



Eddie Galyon, Jr.



Rev. Phillip Bartlett

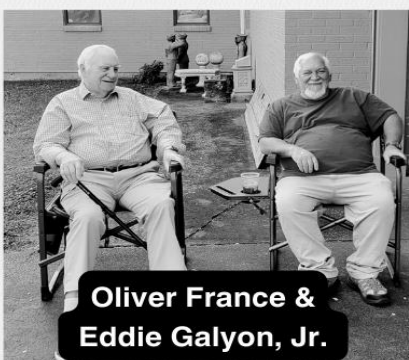


Pastor M.C. Tolbert & Belinda Sedman

**Spiritual Renewal Week
October 23-28, 2023**



Rev. Phillip Bartlett & Eddie Galyon, Jr.



Oliver France & Eddie Galyon, Jr.



Yvonne France & Beth Pickering



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Dr. Osama Betrous, DDS

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