

Peace and the Spirit-filled life

Text: James 3:13–18

Introduction

The Spirit-produced fruit of peace is more than the absence of conflict or pressure; it is an inner calm even while a storm may be raging outside.

Supernatural peace can be experienced in three areas: peace with God, peace with man, and inner peace.

Jesus told His disciples, as He was about to leave them, that His parting gift to them was His own special kind of peace (John 14:27).

Message

1. Peace with God.

a. Before leaving, Jesus died that God and man might be at peace.

b. Man cannot make peace with God; he simply accepts God's terms for peace.

Until men are at peace with God personally, there can be no hope for peace and good will among groups, nations, or races.

2. Peace with man.

a. We should live at peace with fellow Christians.

Trouble and conflict are natural in the world. Peace should be natural in the body of Christ; if it is not there, something is spiritually wrong.

b. Selfishness is the cause of church conflict.

James contrasts earthly and divine wisdom in James 3:13–18. Then in shock he asks (James 4:1), "From where do wars and fighting's come in the congregation of believers? Lust or personal pleasure is the source, he says.

c. Spirit-filled Christians should be peacemakers between others.

Paul appealed to two ladies in the church at Philippi who wanted to minister in their own way. A peacemaker helps such people settle differences.

d. Humility, rather than dogmatic pride, will promote peace.

In Philippians 3:13–15 Paul notes that even he had not reached perfection; then he calls on those who think they have the solution (are perfect) to have the same humility.

3. The peace of God.

a. God gives us a sound mind (peace).

Fear grips the world — fear of death, of the future, of failure. But this is not of God (2 Timothy 1:7).

b. Jesus commanded His disciples and us not to be afraid (John 14:1,27).

We can have supernatural peace — peace that passes understanding — in every area of our lives.

4. Prescription for peace.

Four prescriptions are given in the text. One more can be added to provide the following five.

a. Cast your care on Jesus (1 Peter 5:7, see Matthew 6:25).

b. Let God's peace rule (make decisions) in your heart (Colossians 3:15).

c. Trust in God continually (Isaiah 26:3).

Just thinking about God will not bring peace; we must keep our minds on Him and trust in Him.

d. Find peace through praise and prayer (Philippians 4:6–7).

e. Listen for the voice and words of Jesus (John 16:33).

Knowing that Jesus is speaking to us, even if He tells us of difficult times ahead, is comforting.

Conclusion

As we follow this prescription, the Holy Spirit will produce Christ's special peace in our hearts.

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