

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG206 – The Prince of Peace

Hi, and welcome to this podcast. I have been in deep preparation in my own heart for these days of Pentecost which are just before us, and I want to share some of the things that the Lord is making real to me in preparation for the Day of Pentecost. I want to start with reading Galatians the fifth chapter at verse 22: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.” It goes on in verse 23 to say, “gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” So we see that the Holy Spirit has this aspect to it, which is really the emotions of God being imparted into our lives. It especially grabs my attention with these first three fruit of the Spirit, the first of which is love. I think we all understand the importance of love. God is love. And we do understand, when we talk about this idea of emotions, that there are both human emotions as well as divine emotions. This Scripture, of course, is speaking about the divine emotions which are imparted to us as we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

If we look at love, and then joy and peace, we see three very key emotions that are the fruit imparted to us by the Holy Spirit. Joy – we know that the joy of the Lord is our strength. Now when we get to peace, this one has especially gotten my attention, because looking at the English word peace, there are so many ways that we can relate to it or think about it. In fact, right now in the day we are living in, if we want to look at the idea of peace in human terms, in the world that is around us, we could find many definitions for peace. For instance, with the Islamic jihad, peace means the annihilation of the Jewish people. It means the end of the State of Israel, and global Sharia Law. That is their concept of peace – if that existed, they would be at peace. For President Xi Jinping of China, peace means the taking over of Taiwan. For Putin of Russia, peace means the annexation of Ukraine, and the rebuilding of the former Russian empire. For, say, President Erdoğan of Turkey, peace means the re-establishment of the Islamic Caliphate. And we could go on and on and on with what peace means to many in the world surrounding us, in their human terms. So, it really shows us that this idea of peace, when we talk about it, can be very confusing; it can be defined in many ways. And I think that what we have to do when we talk about the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit, especially this idea of love, joy, and peace, we need to see what is God’s definition of peace.

I think it is easier for us to look at the Scriptures and see love – well, God is love; to see joy – well, the joy of the Lord is our strength. But what is this idea of peace, and how do we put it into God’s terminology? We know that in Hebrew, the word for peace is *Shalom*; so let’s concentrate then on the Hebrew language, and see if we can embrace God’s meaning of the word peace, which we are understanding to be the term Shalom.

Many of us are familiar with the term Shalom, and it has very deep meanings. If we look it up in a Hebrew lexicon, we see many aspects to it. I will just give a few. A major meaning for Shalom is “to be whole, to be entire, to be complete; to be in safety; to be in health.” We see that these aspects are different, I think, than what we would necessarily term the human understanding today, and just the English definition of the word peace. I know that when we are in Israel, on the Sabbath we greet one another with the phrase *Shabbat Shalom*. I think that has a significance to it when we look at God’s

definition of peace, because the Sabbath itself is an expression of Shalom, as God sanctified the Sabbath day when He completed, or made whole, His creation; and that creation included mankind. So mankind was created in the beginning in a completeness, in a wholeness. How was that manifest? It was manifest because we were made in the image of God, or in a oneness with Him; and therefore, the Sabbath is the rest of God. God rested on the Sabbath from all of his works, because His works were completed. They were perfect. They were whole. They were entire. And so, all of these concepts of Sabbath very distinctly tie in to the Hebrew terminology of Shalom. The creation was complete, and it was whole.

Once again, we have to understand that that creation included humankind, it included mankind. So God completed His creation, He sanctified it, and man was part of that; and in sanctifying that, then He rested. And so, there was a rest that was entered into. The rest was by virtue of the fact that everything was whole and complete and finished. Therefore, rest brought about the ability to be at peace, for when you are complete and whole, there is nothing left to strive for.

When we look at human striving that exists around us in the world today, we understand that all striving exists because of our lack of Shalom, our lack of completeness; and that, of course, comes because of our separation from God. Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 tie into this idea of Shalom, and I really encourage you to go and read those chapters. What is Shalom? It is this peace that is born out of wholeness, which allows us to enter into the rest or the Sabbath of God because of our wholeness, because of our completeness. When we look at mankind, and we look at the world around us today, we know that element and feeling of wholeness, that feeling of completeness, is missing; therefore, people are not at rest, people are striving. When we looked at these ideas of human peace at the beginning of this podcast, we saw that these leaders of the world are striving to achieve their definition of peace, but it is because of the lack of feeling wholeness, the lack of feeling complete; they are not complete unless they attain these things that they are striving for.

So we see that a lot of the confusion, a lot of the war, a lot of what is going on in the world today that is so hurtful and harmful in this age, is due to this lack that we have. The purpose and understanding of this podcast is that true peace, true Shalom, only comes when there can be a restoration of man's relationship with God. That separation from Him is what has blocked man from entering into rest due to lack of wholeness. And we see that rest and peace were lost by Adam in Eden, leaving mankind without any rest, no longer feeling whole, no longer feeling complete.

It is this inability for us individually as humans to feel whole and complete that is the true source of all problems that we face. So we are looking for things to make us feel whole, or make us feel satisfied, complete; but that whole reality was lost by Adam in Eden, and it has left all of mankind striving, striving, trying to define, to figure out what is peace, and then to strive to accomplish or to gain what will make them feel whole or complete in order to have a sense of peace restored. But that peace was gone which had been imparted to humanity in the perfect and complete creation, because that creation included the oneness of man with the Father.

Now peace truly only begins and will only be found first inside each individual; and it is only possible through the wholeness and completeness that comes through our reconciliation to the Father, to that oneness that was lost at Eden with the Father. Because once that oneness was gone, we literally were no longer whole. So no wonder we do not feel whole; we in fact are not whole without the relationship with the Father that brings that wholeness. And that wholeness is only brought by a reconciliation to the Father, a reconciliation that is brought about by Messiah, who is called the Prince of Peace – because He

restores, the Messiah, the Christ, restores our oneness with God, allowing each of us individually to become whole and complete once again.

Only in this wholeness can man find the Sabbath, the rest of God, which alone brings peace. Without our personal inner peace, mankind is never going to achieve peace in the world outside of himself. When we try to strive in our lives, and in that which exists outside of ourselves – whether it is success, or finances, wealth, whatever it is that people strive for in order to feel complete or whole within themselves – they are never going to find it, they are never going to achieve it. First, there has to be this reconciliation to the Father that allows us to once again feel whole, feel complete. Once we have that sense of feeling and we can enter into the rest that God has provided in His Sabbath, from that point we will be able to work on the world outside of ourselves and around us to try to achieve peace.

Listen, the prime objective of God's love is to bring about His peace with each of us personally and individually, in order that peace can then encompass the globe. And He has made provision for this. God has made this possible through His love manifested in Yeshua, in Jesus, who is the physical manifestation of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. He is the Messiah, the great Prince of Peace, who has come to establish on this earth God's Kingdom of peace. So from now on, when we greet one another with the word Shalom, we realize that we are releasing the ability to be made whole and complete by the peace that God has made available through His great love for us.

We have the Scripture which we all quote so often, that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." And it is true, Christ was manifest because of this love; which again, as I said, the prime objective of God's love is to bring peace to us personally and individually, and in that love we are going to be made whole and complete again in Him.

I want to read a few Scriptures before we complete this podcast, and hopefully it will be complete and whole, and it will minister that sense of emotion to us where we can really have a breakthrough. In Isaiah 9:6, it says, "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace" – or as it says in Hebrew, *Sar Shalom*. He is the Prince of Peace, and He is coming to establish God's Kingdom on this earth, and it is a Kingdom of peace.

I want to read First Thessalonians 5:23-24: "Now may the God of peace" – see, get this emphasis, because we are looking at this idea of Pentecost and the outpouring of God's Spirit; and the beginning of what is imparted in the fruit of the Spirit is the love, joy, peace. So we want to be impacted by this idea of peace, because I think we are able to grab the idea of the love and the joy that is defined to us biblically; but this peace... and yet, when we really think about it, look how much the Scripture reemphasizes to us that God is the God of peace who is striving to impart to us peace.

"Now may the God of peace [He is the God of peace] Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete [see, we are reaching for this wholeness, and it comes to us through the God of peace], without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass."

Second Corinthians 13:11-12 says, "Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss." So we see that He is the God of love and peace. That is what is being imparted to us at this time of Pentecost through the great Holy Spirit outpouring that we are reaching for.

In Hebrews 13, verses 20-21, it says, “Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.” See, our striving ceases when by the God of peace we are able to enter in to all that is provided through the great Prince of Peace, by the eternal covenant of His blood.

Philippians 4:8-9: “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

And here is a good way to end with the Scriptures – Second Thessalonians 3:16: “Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!”

As we finish this podcast, I want you just to remember that peace is only possible when we individually are at peace, having been restored to wholeness through reconciliation with the Father by the great Prince of Peace. We believe for this to be our experience through the Pentecost outpouring of His Spirit, which brings to us the fruit of His Spirit, beginning with love, joy, and peace.

Amen.