

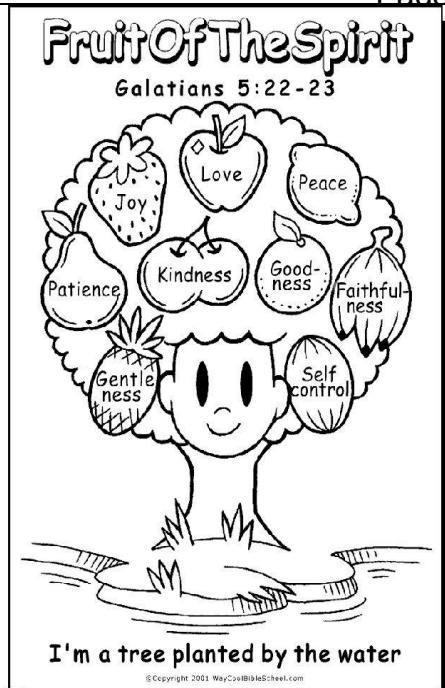
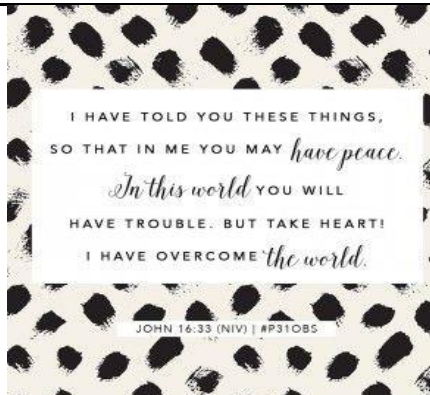
## Women In God's Service Bible Study Series: "Growing Through Prayer"

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Teleconference  
Women's Bible Study  
Ella Samuels, P. E. (Ret.) Teacher  
Phone #: 712-775-7061  
Code: 506451  
July 24, 2021 @10:40AM



### Today's Lesson: "Fruit of the Spirit: Peace"



Morning

*Prayer*

Sis. Gloria Feimster

Scripture #1 Read By:  
**John 14:15-21**

**Sis. Alison Strong-Smith**  
Please be prepared to read  
other scriptures in case I  
need you to do so.

Scripture #2 Read By:  
**Sis. Carolyn Kaham**  
**John 14:22-27**

Please be prepared to read  
other scriptures, in case I  
need you to do so.



*Do You Remember...*

*From Last Week's Lesson*

1. What does it mean that Satan is the god of this world? **The phrase "god of this world" (or "god of this age" [NKJV]) indicates that, the mind-set, ideals, opinions, goals, views, etc. of the majority of people in the world, shows that Satan (Evil) is the major influence.**
2. What does 1Thessalonians 5:16 say? **Be joyful always.**
3. What does it mean to have "Unconditional" Joy? **To have the joy of the Holy Spirit without being required to do something for it**
4. Complete this: Some Christians have one foot in both worlds
5. What does this quote mean to you? "Some Christians are riding the fence."**Tryin to serve God and the world**
6. Share why Holy Spirit filled Christians can experience **Joy** consistently.

Joy abides in them because the Holy Spirit abides in them.

7. What does 1Corinthians 6:19 tell us? **Our body is the temple for the Holy Spirit**
8. What scripture tell us of the Prophet Joel's prophecy that God said He would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh? **Acts 2:15-17 & Joel 2:28-29**
9. Why is the Holy Spirit given to the children of God? **To make the presence of Jesus a lasting reality.**
10. What scripture tells us what entitles us to be called the "Children of God". **John 1:12**
11. Could the Holy Spirit come before Jesus left the earth and went back to His Father? **No**
12. In Acts 8:5-8 when Phillip was preaching the gospel and people were being delivered, what did the people pay "**Close Attention**" to? **What Philip said. (Preaching the Gospel) The people paid close attention to the word of God.**
13. Where is the scripture: "Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world" found? **1John 4:4**
14. What was the economic level of the Magi and the Shepherds, in the story of Jesus' birth? **Magi were considered wealthy because they were able to give expensive gifts and the shepherds were poor.**
15. In the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Nehemiah, why were the children of Israel weeping? **They were afraid after the law was read.**
16. What did Nehemiah say to encourage them? **"The joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10**



## Introduction

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*Written by Sgt. Presiding Elder Ella Samuels  
And Read by Sis. Mary Mullins*

We all need peace in this chaotic world, and thankfully God has an abundance of it, which He desires to give his children. It seems that people make up the rules of life according to their feelings, as they move throughout one day into another. Will we ever understand why some people are homeless and others have more houses than they will ever live in? Will we ever fully understand why some people are refugees, while others are living safely and secure? Will we ever understand why, even though some people try to do good, they are still met with hate? Sometimes it's easy for me to

understand the reason many people get to the point of just giving up. But, I am thankful that God offers us a better way to handle our chaotic situations, **whatever** they may be.

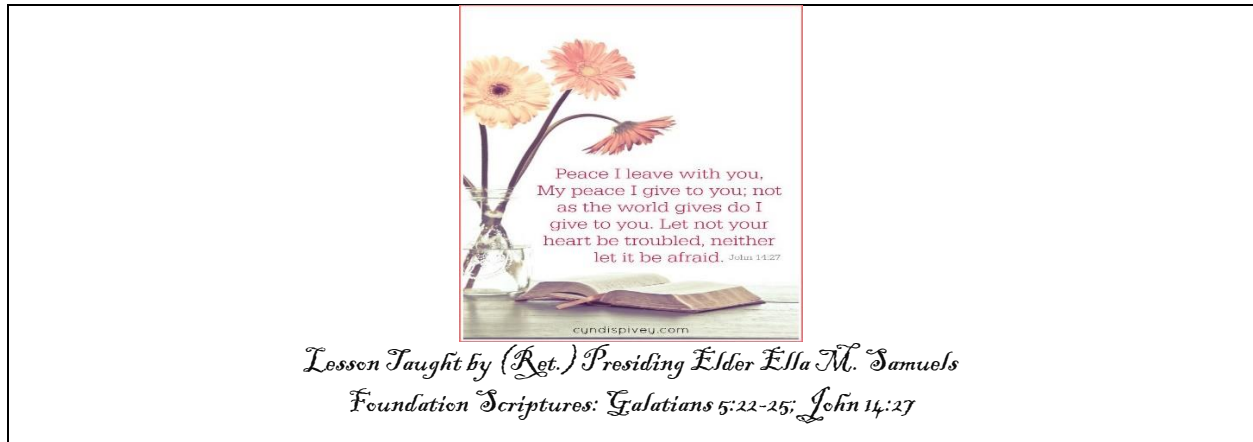
While the chaos threatens us from the outside, God offers us a solution that works from the inside and provides a transforming calmness that is revealed on the outside. In order to qualify for receiving this solution, we must first receive Him. The world, or the unsaved, will not be able to receive this solution because the world doesn't know Him (God). In order to be a benefactor of God's offer, we must be born again. We must have a relationship with God. The closer we live to Him, the more effective this solution will be. Are you wondering what God's solution to chaos, anxiety, and worry is? The solution is God's peace. This peace is offered to us as a free gift from the One who defeated death and sin. His name is Jesus! The second person in the God Head. In John 14:27 Jesus promised His followers that He was going to give them **His** peace and the only way for us to receive **His** peace, we must receive **Him** by receiving the Holy Spirit, which is the third person in the God Head. We must allow **Him (The Holy Spirit)** to come and live in us, and when He comes to live in us – the scripture teaches that one of His characteristics, or qualities, or attributes is Peace. In Galatians 5:22 Paul tells us that the Fruit or the Outgrowth, or the extension, or the effect of being filled with the Holy Spirit is the characteristics of Love, Joy, Peace, Patience Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. It's as though the Holy Spirit brings us a big Fruit Basket when He arrives to live in His temple, bought and paid for with the blood of Jesus, who gave His life for our redemption. (Our body is the temple for the Holy Spirit).

(1Corinthians 16:9)

Peace is not something we can obtain through our own efforts, but the good news is, once we have **this** peace, it is not something that can be taken away, by the difficulties and the conflicts in this life. In the words of Jesus to His followers, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have

overcome the world.” (John 16:33) The peace of the Holy Spirit, brings well-being, contentment, and wholeness, whatever circumstances may arise. Now, let us listen carefully to a lesson on the 3<sup>rd</sup> characteristic of the Holy Spirit:

**PEACE.**



We are learning about the fruit of the Spirit! When we believe in Jesus, when we confess our sins and repent – that is – we make a decision to turn away from sin, accept Jesus as Lord of our lives, ask Him to live in us by way of the Holy Spirit, He helps us to be: loving, kind, joyful, patient, gentle, peaceful, good, faithful, and have self control. Paul tells us that these characteristic are what is called the Fruit of the Spirit. This week we are going to learn about the characteristic: Peace

Peace is something that we cannot attain physically because the world is almost always going to be a rocky place. God’s peace is an amazing gift that the natural mind will not understand. For the human mind or the natural mind understands peace as being the absence of conflict – but Christians have God’s peace available to them, a peace that is greater than anything the world has to offer. God’s peace is present even in the midst of turmoil. God’s peace is a peace that surpasses all human understanding. Peace is one of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, and when He (The Holy Spirit) abides in us, we can experience the perfect peace that comes only from God.

Just like natural fruit needs time to grow, the Fruit of the Spirit will not ripen in our lives overnight. That’s one of the reasons Peter’s prayer in 1Peter 1:2 is: “May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your

knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.” As we mature in our faith, our ability to understand how to allow the Fruit of the Spirit to take full control of our heart, our mind, and our emotions will grow as well. That’s why the closer we get to God the more aware we are concerning the presence of the Holy Spirit living in us – instead of Him just visiting us when we call Him. And because He lives in us, as children of God, His peace abides within us.

One of the strongest human desires is for peace. Most of us want to see peace on our homeland, peace between nations, peace between neighbors, peace within our biological family, peace within our Churches, and even peace within our own minds.

Millions of people are searching for something that can only be found in Jesus. Listen carefully, peace in the world will not come until Jesus returns. Listen to what Jesus said in Luke 12:51: “Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division” Jesus was not saying that He was going to prevent peace from coming. No – what Jesus was doing was giving the warning that what His message, His word, His way of living, His expectations of mankind, was going to divide people. Isn’t that’s what happened? When Christ began His earthly ministry, He showed love, gave comfort, and brought healing, He even raised the dead. What was the people’s response to Him? Even His own people didn’t receive Him. He was rejected, arrested Him, beat on and even killed. Then, after He went back to His Father, those who continued to carry His message, was rejected, arrested, beat and killed. Even now, the stronger God’s followers proclaim to the world, the need to repent of certain things, the more we will be rejected. OpenDoorUSA.com reports: “Even today, in many parts of the world Christians are persecuted because of their faith. While Christian persecution takes many forms, it is defined as any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Jesus Christ. From Sudan to Russia, from Nigeria to North Korea, from Colombia to India, followers of Christianity are targeted for their faith. They are attacked; they are discriminated against at work and at school; they risk sexual violence, torture, arrest and much more.” I read one story that tells about a couple who converted from Muslim to Christianity in some

an Eastern part of Africa. The husband was beat up by his brother and their 16 years-old daughter was beat and rapped by a group of Muslim men. The wife said it was the most difficult thing that she had suffered for the sake of Jesus Christ. (Like Paul, she has not regretted suffering for the sake of Christ) In the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of John Jesus warned His disciples that they would suffer persecution for His sake – He informed them that He was going back to the Father but He would send another comforter – the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter is closed with Him telling them that the reason He had shared these things with them because, even though they would suffer trouble in the world – they could have peace because He had overcome the world. Even though these words would comfort and encourage them, however what He wanted them to know was – because He had overcome the world, we, too, would be able to overcome because He would be living in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit. He had already told them in chapter 14:verse 17 that, at that moment, He was living with them but He would live IN them. Then in the 27<sup>th</sup> verse He told them, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives...” In other words, the peace that He gives is not the same as the peace that comes from the world. The peace that He gives to His children by way of His Spirit living in us is not the absence of troubles, the absence of difficulties, the end or disagreements, nor the end of all strife. He has told us we will have trouble, however the gift of His presence, the gift of His guidance and the blessing of the Holy Spirit mean that we can have peace in our storms, peace in our struggles and peace in this fallen world. In order to receive this peace, we must make peace with God.

Before a person accepts Jesus as Lord, we are enemies of God. An enemy of God is one who opposes the presence and purposes of God in this world.

Colossians 1:21 reflects 3 conditions of a sinner – 1) before we accepted Christ we were alienated or separated from God. We didn't belong to the family of God. 2) Because we were separated from God we were opposed to Him and His commands. 3) Being opposed to God and His ways led us to do evil. James

4:4 tells us that whoever is a friend to the world is an enemy to God. But, But! Romans 5:1 tells us that since we have been justified through faith, we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words we have been made righteous, as though we have never sinned, through Jesus Christ – Page | 7 by Him dying on the cross for our redemption. Then, once a person is saved, there is peace between him/her and God, we cannot have the peace of God until we have peace with God, with that being said, each of us who have been saved and made righteous has peace with God; We have made our peace with our Father! Following our peace with God, Jesus fulfills His promise to us and asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit; when the Holy Spirit comes to live IN us, He brings us that peace to abide within us. How can we activate this peace within us?

Philippians 4:6-7 tells us not to be anxious about anything, but in everything , by prayer and supplication, 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. There are three key words in this scripture: Prayer; thanksgiving; peace - When situations arise in our lives that threatens us with worry and anxiety, God gives us the antidote for peace.

1. Pray: Jesus said in this world you will have trouble. Trouble is either in your life or on the way. Relationships fall apart, jobs get lost, loved ones get sick, we get sick, things fall apart in and around the house, the list can go on and on. Some Christians think it shows their holiness to deny that they have trouble – but Jesus lets us know, Trouble is Real! – the context or the framework of our trouble is this fallen world – as long as we live in this world we are going to have trouble but thanks be to God, Jesus has overcome the world. And if we are in Him and He in us – we can have hope and with that hope comes peace. So He tells us to pray and make our requests known. Don't hide anything. There is nothing too hard for God.

2. While we are praying He said be thankful – even before we tell Him our current problems thank Him for giving us peace in our past problems. As we are thanking God, our attitude about our present situation begins to change, we start thinking about how good God has already been. There is power in a thankful heart. Satan is defeated, because when we start being thankful we will start to rejoice. And the Joy of the Lord will give us strength. We can't be thankful and upset at the same time. Giving thanks to God keeps our hearts in right relationship with Him and saves us from a host of harmful emotions and attitudes.
3. As we thank God, and praise God; When we begin to think of what God has already done, our hope will begin to rise and we will start to feel peace. That's God's plan for us. As we petition Him concerning our needs, remembering His promises – The Holy Spirit begins to infuse our very being with peace. We turn from worrying about our situation to thanking Him. Our environment may not change, but *we will change*. The peace of God will guard our hearts and thoughts, saving us from all anxiety, worry, etc. God spoke to Isaiah and told him to say: 26:3 “As long as we keep our minds steadfast on the Lord He will keep us in perfect peace.” (Isaiah 26:3) His peace calms storms; removes burdens; breaks the chains that bound us; and strengthens us to fight the fight of faith.



Closing Prayer: Rev. Barbareta McGill

The Departing Blessing:

Leader: The peace of God be with you

Response: And also with you.