

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Devotional: Summer 2020

INTRODUCTION

This summer we are exploring the fruit of the Spirit: how God changes us through his Spirit to make us more like Jesus. Thank you for joining other Redeemer East Siders to grow in the fruit of the Spirit through devotionals, discussions and noonday prayer.

Use this devotional guide to deepen your understanding of the power of God's Spirit. Each day begin with the opening prayer, choose a Scripture passage and quotation to reflect on, and then pray the closing prayer. The worship songs can be listened to throughout the week. When a particular Scripture stands out to you, pause and meditate on it, considering what you learn about God, humanity, and why God is showing this to you today. Pray for the Spirit to work this fruit into your life.

WEEK 4, JULY 26: PEACE

▶ LISTEN

- [Abide with Me - Audrey Assad](#)
- [It is Well - Kristine DeMarco](#)
- [Build My Life - Christie Knockles](#)

▶ OPENING PRAYER

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

▶ SCRIPTURE

- Psalm 46
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Psalm 91
- Philippians 4:4-12
- Matthew 7:7-12
- James 3:13-18
- John 14:1-4,15-27

► PEACE

- **Definition:** Confidence and rest in the wisdom of God over one's own wisdom and self-reliance.
- **Opposite:** Anxiety and worry that God isn't in control, is not good in his intentions, cannot be trusted.
- **Counterfeit:** Cavalier indifference, apathy, not caring.

► REFLECTION QUOTES

"There is no peace like the peace of those whose minds are possessed with full assurance that they have known God and God has known them, and that this relationship guarantees God's favor to them in life, through death and on forever."
—J. I. Packer

"The webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets called *shalom*. In English we call it peace, but it means far more than just peace of mind or ceasefire between enemies. In the Bible, *shalom* was used to refer to universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight—a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts are fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as the creator and savior opens doors and speaks welcome to the creatures in whom he delights. *Shalom*, in other words, is 'the way things are supposed to be.'"
—Cornelius Plantinga

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it's the presence of justice."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

"This is the great conversion in our life: to recognize and believe that the many unexpected events are not just disturbing interruptions of our projects, but the way in which God molds our hearts and prepares us for his return."
—Henri Nouwen

"Be not anxious! Earthly possessions dazzle our eyes and delude us into thinking that they can provide security and freedom from anxiety. Yet all the time they are the very source of all anxiety. If our hearts are set on them, our reward is an anxiety whose burden is intolerable. Anxiety creates its own treasures and they in turn beget further care. When we seek for security in possessions we are trying to drive out care with care, and the net result is the precise opposite of our anticipations. The fetters which bind us to our possessions prove to be cares themselves."
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"God created all things to be in a beautiful, harmonious, interdependent, knitted, webbed relationship to one another. Just as rightly related physical elements form a cosmos or a tapestry, so rightly related human beings form a community. This interwovenness is what the Bible calls *shalom*, or harmonious peace."
—Timothy Keller

► CLOSING PRAYER

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray you, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)