

peace of mind. Pastor Jack titled this process “The Three Peaces.” In the passage for today’s devotion Paul talks about peace with God that leads to the peace of God resulting in our becoming peacemakers. Let’s consider what it means to receive peace with God, the operative word being “with.” Peace with God is foundational for peace in general. Paul writes in verses 1 and 2 he writes, “Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.” We receive this peace; it is the fruit of living in an intimate relationship with God. Recall the quote from our newsletter, the Chimes that we’re talking about the Fruit of the Spirit not of our hard work. Contemplate these concepts and write your thoughts here, praying for God’s peace to be a part of your daily life.

Thursday, May 11

Read Romans 5:1-5. If we have peace with God, Paul says that we are then able to live into the second kind of peace: the peace of God — the preposition “of” being the operative word. When we have received freedom for that which separates us from God, then we may receive God’s abiding peace that lives within us. It’s not a peace that is dependent on circumstances but based on faith that God is at work in us and is caring for us. This kind of inner peace makes us resilient people, and that makes us stand out in contrast to an anxious world. Have you experienced this inner peace that surpasses human understanding? Has it been a fleeting period of time of peace or a long-lasting abiding peace? Think about the condition of the peace within you and write your thoughts here.

Friday, May 12

Read Romans 5:1-5. The peace of God is not the end goal. Peace always comes to us on its way to someone else. When Jesus sent out his disciples to spread the good news, he told them to greet everyone with “Peace to this house” (Luke 10:5). We are called to share peace and to be peacemakers. How are you living out this call to pass the peace onto others? Record your ideas here.

Message Notes –May 7, 2023

The Fruit of the Spirit – *The Three Peaces* *

- I. May is _____ Awareness Month.
 - A. It _____ with our series of message about Fruit of the Spirit.
 - B. Most people want peace of _____.
 1. But what does this mean? _____ freedom, solitude and tranquility? A walk on an ocean beach?
 2. A _____ by a mountain lake? A good book on a rainy afternoon?
 3. Psychologically speaking, peace of mind is the result of cultivating an _____ knowledge of oneself, knowing and valuing the person you are and want to be and living fully in the present moment.
 4. Biblically speaking, real peace of mind doesn’t come from being mindfully aware of ourselves, but rather from standing on the _____ of God.
- II. Barclay wrote, “Here is one of Paul’s _____ passages in which he almost sings the intimate joy of his confidence in God.”
 - A. First, Paul talks about peace _____ God.
 - B. If we have peace with God, Paul says that we are then able to live into the second kind of peace: the peace ____ God.

*Galatians 5:1,13-24 and Romans 5:1-5

C. When we have peace with God, we also receive the peace of God, but that is to lead us to become the _____ of God.

III. Most people who recite theologian Reinhold Niebuhr's Serenity Prayer only quote the first line: "God, grant me the serenity to _____ the things I cannot change, the courage to _____ the things I can, and the _____ to know the difference."

A. Here are the remaining, seldom-quoted lines:
"Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting _____ as the pathway to peace; taking, as [Jesus] did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that he will make all things right if I surrender to his will; that I may be _____ happy in this life and _____ happy with him forever in the next."

B. It is peace with God and the peace of God Paul is speaking about here, not just good _____ and peace _____ ourselves.
1. Peace with God leads to the peace of God which leads to _____ in the power of God.
2. With this kind of peace, we can change _____ world!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, May 8

Pastor Jack began the message saying that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. There are a lot of ways that we can make others aware of caring for others who suffer from mental illness or

disabilities. In fact, it's been said that "practicing religion has been found to reduce tension, diminish anxiety and stabilize emotional variability." In connection with this week's featured Fruit of the Spirit, Peace, there is a wonderful scripture we can focus on today: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7) As we are in our series of message on the Fruit of the Spirit and as we think about Mental Health this month, let focus this week on peace. Think about activities that you could be a part of in making others aware of Mental Health issues in our community, your workplace, home and our church. Write your reflections here and take some time to memorize the passage above from Philippians.

Tuesday, May 9

Read Galatians 5:1, 13-24. Pastor Jack made a reference to the song *Peace of Mind* written and recorded by the rock band Boston. It's a song about "feelin' low" and "future's comin' much too slow." The Chorus mentions "livin' in competition," "indecision," and "All I want is to have my peace of mind." Are there some sentiments that are familiar to you? Are they connected to your life or those in your life? What would it mean to have "peace of mind?" Pastor Jack shared the insight from his research that peace of mind is the result of cultivating an intimate knowledge of oneself and knowing and valuing the person you are and want to be. Think of the Fruit of the Spirit from the Galatians passage from Sunday. Which ones are evident in your life and speak to your identity and values? How do those Fruit balance with the anxieties of your life? Pray for peace and write your ideas here.

Wednesday, May 10

Read Romans 5:1-5. Pastor Jack, relying on the world of Pastor Bob Kaylor suggested that there is a process that leads to have