

Sermon Title: “The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace and Patience”

Text: Galatians 5:22–23

Introduction

- Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit as evidence of God’s work in the believer’s life.
 - Today, I want us to focus on two qualities: peace and patience.
 - Both are not merely personality traits—they are supernatural fruit that mark the presence of the King and His Spirit in us.
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I. Peace (Eirēnē) – The Mark of the King’s Presence

Definition (summarized from Greek):

- Eirēnē is more than the absence of conflict.
- It can mean: national tranquility, harmony between individuals, safety and prosperity, the Messianic peace of salvation, the inner assurance of the believer, and even the eternal blessed state after death.

Key Point:

- Peace is the marker of a kingdom. Where the king reigns, peace reigns.

Illustration – Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4:35–41):

- The disciples panicked, the sea raged, but when Jesus spoke, peace came.
- The point: peace is not the absence of storms—it’s the presence of the King.
- When Christ is present and ruling, peace follows.

Application:

- True peace comes not from our circumstances, but from submitting to the reign of Christ.
 - Our world chases “peace” through politics, money, or self-help. But the fruit of the Spirit is eirēnē:
 - Peace with God through Christ.
 - Peace within, even in trials.
 - Peace with others, through forgiveness and reconciliation.
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II. Patience (Makrothumia) – The Spirit’s Power in Our Relationships

Definition (from Greek):

- Literally “long-tempered” (opposite of a short fuse).
- Not primarily about enduring difficult circumstances (that’s hupomonē).
- Makrothumia is patience with people.
- It is forbearance, mercy, and self-control in relationships, especially when provoked or wronged.

Key Point:

- The fruit of the Spirit gives us the power not to give up on people—because God does not give up on us.

Biblical Example – God’s Patience:

- Romans 2:4 – God’s kindness and patience (makrothumia) lead us to repentance.
- 2 Peter 3:9 – God is patient, not wishing that any should perish.
- Over and over, God demonstrates long-suffering towards His people.

Contrast to Human Nature:

- Our natural reaction is to cut people off, retaliate, or withdraw.

- The Spirit enables us to absorb offenses without bitterness and to extend grace, even when wronged.

Application:

- In families, friendships, marriages, and church life—we need makrothumia.
 - Relationships are where patience is tested most, and where Spirit-filled patience shines brightest.
 - This doesn't mean ignoring sin or enabling abuse, but it does mean cultivating mercy, forgiveness, and steadfast love.
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III. Peace and Patience Together

- Peace and patience are deeply connected.
 - Peace anchors us in Christ—so we don't react out of fear or insecurity.
 - Patience flows from that peace—so we can respond to others with love instead of anger.
 - When the Spirit is at work, the kingdom of peace is established in us, and the patience of God is displayed through us.
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Conclusion

- Peace (eirēnē): the mark of the King's presence—peace reigns where Christ reigns.
- Patience (makrothumia): the Spirit's power in relationships—not giving up on people, just as God has not given up on us.
- Invitation/Challenge:
 - Where do you need to let Christ rule and bring His peace?
 - Who in your life needs you to show Spirit-filled patience?