

# PEACE: The Fruit of the Spirit #4

## Introduction

**A. Miss Congeniality:** Sandra Bullock as an undercover cop in a beauty pageant.

1. "What is the one thing our society most needs?" One contestant after another says, "World peace." "That's easy, world peace." "Definitely world peace."
2. Sandra Bullock: "I would have to say harsher punishment for parole violators, Stan. (audience is stunned and silent) "...and world peace." (audience cheers loudly)
3. EVERYONE WANTS PEACE (ABSENCE OF WAR, CONFLICT, HOSTILITY).

**B. We live in a world of turmoil**

1. Sometimes we have fears, doubts and uncertainties about where life is headed.
2. We get anxious about money, health, children, work, safety, nation, nuclear war and the zombie holocaust.
3. Sometimes we are burdened with resentments toward others who make our lives difficult or hurt us or treat us unfairly.
4. Sometimes we get burdened down with guilt and shame over our own sins and failures: pride, anger, obsessions, impatience, dishonesty.
5. **Romans 8:6 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but **to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.**

**C. Three Bible Meanings of PEACE** (the world can only temporarily provide these)

1. absence of outward hostility, enmity, strife, fighting
2. tranquil, calm in spirit, free from anxiety, untroubled
3. reconciled, relationship restored, not separated

**John 14:27 (ESV)** <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

**John 16:33 (ESV)** <sup>33</sup>I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

**I. It was prophesied that the coming Christ would bring peace.**

**Genesis 49:10 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup>The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until **Shiloh** comes; And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people.

**Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.** <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government **and of peace** there will be no end...

**Micah 5:2, 5 (NKJV)** <sup>2</sup>"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting." ...<sup>5</sup> And this *One* shall be peace.

**II. The message of His gospel is peace.**

**Acts 10:36 (NKJV)** <sup>36</sup>The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel, **preaching peace through Jesus Christ**—He is Lord of all—

**Romans 5:1-2 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with**

**God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**Ephesians 2:14, 17-18 ( NKJV )** <sup>14</sup>For **He Himself is our peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ...<sup>17</sup>And **He came and preached peace** to you who were afar off and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

### **III. The nature of His kingdom is peace.**

**Isaiah 2:4 ( NKJV )** <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. **Isaiah 11:6-8 ( NKJV )** <sup>6</sup>“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.

**Romans 14:17 ( NKJV )** <sup>17</sup>for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

### **IV. Jesus does not promise the removal of the consequences of past sins, or peace with every person, or an easy life without trial.**

**Proverbs 13:15 ( KJV )** <sup>15</sup>Good understanding gives favor: but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

**Matthew 10:34-37 ( NKJV )** <sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to ‘*set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law*’; <sup>36</sup>and ‘*a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.*’ <sup>37</sup>He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

**Acts 14:22 ( NKJV )** <sup>22</sup>strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

### **V. The Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ allows us to be at peace...**

- **with God...**

**Romans 5:1-2 ( ESV )** <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- **with our family, neighbor, brethren, and even enemy...**

**Colossians 3:12-15 ( NKJV )** <sup>12</sup>Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. <sup>14</sup>But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

**Hebrews 12:14 ( NKJV )** <sup>14</sup>Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which

no one will see the Lord:

**Romans 12:18 ( NKJV )** <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

**James 3:16-18 ( NKJV )** <sup>16</sup>For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**Matthew 5:9** <sup>9</sup>Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

- **within ourselves... Phil 4:6-7**

**Philippians 4:6-7 ( NKJV )** <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, **let your requests be made known to God;** <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Serenity Prayer:** “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

## Conclusion

**John 14:27 ( NKJV )** <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

**2 Thessalonians 3:16 ( NKJV )** <sup>16</sup>Now may **the Lord of peace** Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.

**2 Peter 3:14 ( ESV )** <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, **be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.**