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Central Congregational Church
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The Promise of Peace

Series: *The Fruit of the Spirit – Living a Life that Pleases God*
Galatians 5:22-26

Central Thought: Personal peace is the product of a life grounded in the greatness and grace of God.

- ❖ Personal Peace is...an internal soundness and settled-ness of soul regardless of external circumstances.
- ❖ The Promise of Peace – through trust in and obedience to God.

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT) — 3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Job 22:21 (NLT) — 21 “Submit to God, and you will have peace; then things will go well for you.

John 14:23–27 (NIV) — 23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. 25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- ❖ The Pathway to Peace – walking by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16–17 (NIV) — 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV) — 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- ❖ The Protective Power of Peace – From Christ, through prayer and thanksgiving.

*Philippians 4:4–7 (NLT) — 4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. 6 Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. **His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.** (See also Proverbs 14:30; John 16:33)*

- ❖ The Pursuit of Peace – A command of God.

*1 Peter 3:10–11 (NIV) — 10 For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; **they must seek peace and pursue it.** (See also Zechariah 8:16-19; Matthew 5:9; 2 Corinthians 13:11)*

Questions/Homework

- ❖ Read the “see also passages above.
- ❖ Begin/continue a habit of regular prayer, confession, Bible reading, fellowship, service etc. (*Walking by the Spirit*).