

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE

Our Source Of Joy and Peace - Galatians 5:22-23

Source Of Joy and Peace

- “The Solid Rock”

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Our Source Of Joy and Peace

- **Genesis 1:27 NIV**, So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
 - Mankind was created in the image of God in their moral, spiritual, and intellectual nature
 - We were created to mirror God's divinity in their ability to love
 - And from that love flowed everything they needed for life, joy, peace, fellowship, contentment

Our Source Of Joy and Peace

- In Genesis 3 we find mankind let loose of their trust in God's love and replaced it with what they thought would bring them greater joy, peace, and a greater fulfillment in life
 - **Genesis 3:7 NIV**, Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.
 - Before they were inside the perfection of God's glory and now, they find themselves outside with only their own human glory
 - They no longer mirrored the glory of their Creator but themselves
 - They tried to cover up their loss but found it unsatisfying
 - Now their only hope is in God's glory coming down to rescue them

Our Source Of Joy and Peace

- As life went on mankind needed hope and have developed their own ways of describing hope
 - Hope is a waking dream
 - Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all
 - Love is a springtime plant that perfumes everything with its hope, even the ruins to which it clings
 - Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering it will be happier
 - God's Word says hope is only found in the person of Jesus Christ

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- I need something more solid, sure before hope has its intended purpose in my life
 - **Psalm 33:20-22 NIV**, 20 We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. 21 In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. 22 May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.
 - How do you wait in hope?
 - How can your heart rejoice in hope?
 - How can we grasp God's unfailing love in hope as our world seems to be falling apart?

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- Our dear Jewish friend's word for hope describe it as, “Hope is a rope”
 - Hebrew word Tikvah = Means confident expectation—and it also means cord or rope, which comes from a root word that means to bind or to wait for or upon
 - Tikvah is a rope that we can hang onto when the world seems out of control or when we don't know how to make it through a difficult season in life, like the promise given to the Israelites in captivity in a foreign land
 - “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope (*Tikvah*) and a future.”
(Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)
 - “For you have been my hope (*Tikvah*), Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. *(Psalm 71:5 NIV)*

Our Source Of Joy and Peace

- We saw last week that true hope is found only in God alone
 - “May the God of hope fill you with all (*complete*) joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (*Romans 15:13 NIV*)
 - The prerequisites for God’s hope are God’s joy and peace released into our lives
 - It is released through our trust in Him
 - Which allows the power of the Holy Spirit to plant God’s hope into our lives
 - So here is the question for this morning, “How can I plant God’s joy and peace into my life?”

Scripture

- **Galatians 5:22-23 ESV**, “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”
 - Notice it says the fruit, not fruits of the Spirit, a fruit tree only produces one kind of fruit
 - The fruit of the Spirit is God’s type of love or Garden love that mankind experience and lived in the Garden
 - Garden love produces or expresses or shows itself in
 - Garden joy - peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control in our lives

Scripture

- **Galatians 5:22-23 ESV**, “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”
 - We must learn to mirror the love of Christ Jesus in our daily lives
 - “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” *(2nd Corinthians 3:18 ESV)*
- To have God’s joy and God’s peace that leads to God’s hope, we must learn to live through God’s love

Characteristics of God's Love (Agape)

- Agape love is more concerned with the greatest good of others than ourselves
 - Fiduciary type of love
 - Financial Fiduciary – Is a person or organization that acts on behalf of another person or persons, putting their clients' interests ahead of their own, with a duty to preserve good faith and trust. Being a fiduciary thus requires being bound both legally and ethically to act in the other's best interests.
 - Agape isn't born just out of emotions, feelings, familiarity, or attraction but from the will and as a choice
 - Agape requires faithfulness, commitment, and sacrifice without expecting anything in return

Characteristics of God's Love (Agape)

- Agape love is unconcerned with the self and concerned with the greatest good of another
 - Agape love is a sacrificial love that unites and heals
 - It is the love of God that we see through the cross of Jesus Christ
 - This love saves and restores humanity in the face of sin and death
 - "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (*John 15:13 ESV*)
 - This type of love can only be produced by the power of the Holy Spirit released into your every day

Characteristics of God's Love (Agape)

- Is agape love really that important for us as Christians that we learn to live out this type of love?
 - **1st Corinthians 13:1-3 ESV**, “If I speak in the tongues (*languages*) of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, (*deliver my body up to death*) but have not love, I gain nothing.

Characteristics of God's Love (Agape)

- Is agape love really that important for us as Christians that we learn to live out this type of love?
 - **1st Corinthians 13:4-8 NIV**, “4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away..”

Examples of God's Love (Agape)

- **John 4:3-10 NIV**, 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.
 - 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)
 - 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Examples of God's Love (Agape)

- **Luke 10:30-35 NIV**, 30 Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.
 - 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.
 - 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

Examples of God's Love (Agape)

- **Romans 5:6-8 NIV**, 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Examples of God's Love (Agape)

- **Philippians 2:5-8 NIV**, 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!
 - **Luke 23:34 NIV**, Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Examples of God's Love (Agape)

- **Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV**, Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our Source Of Joy and Peace

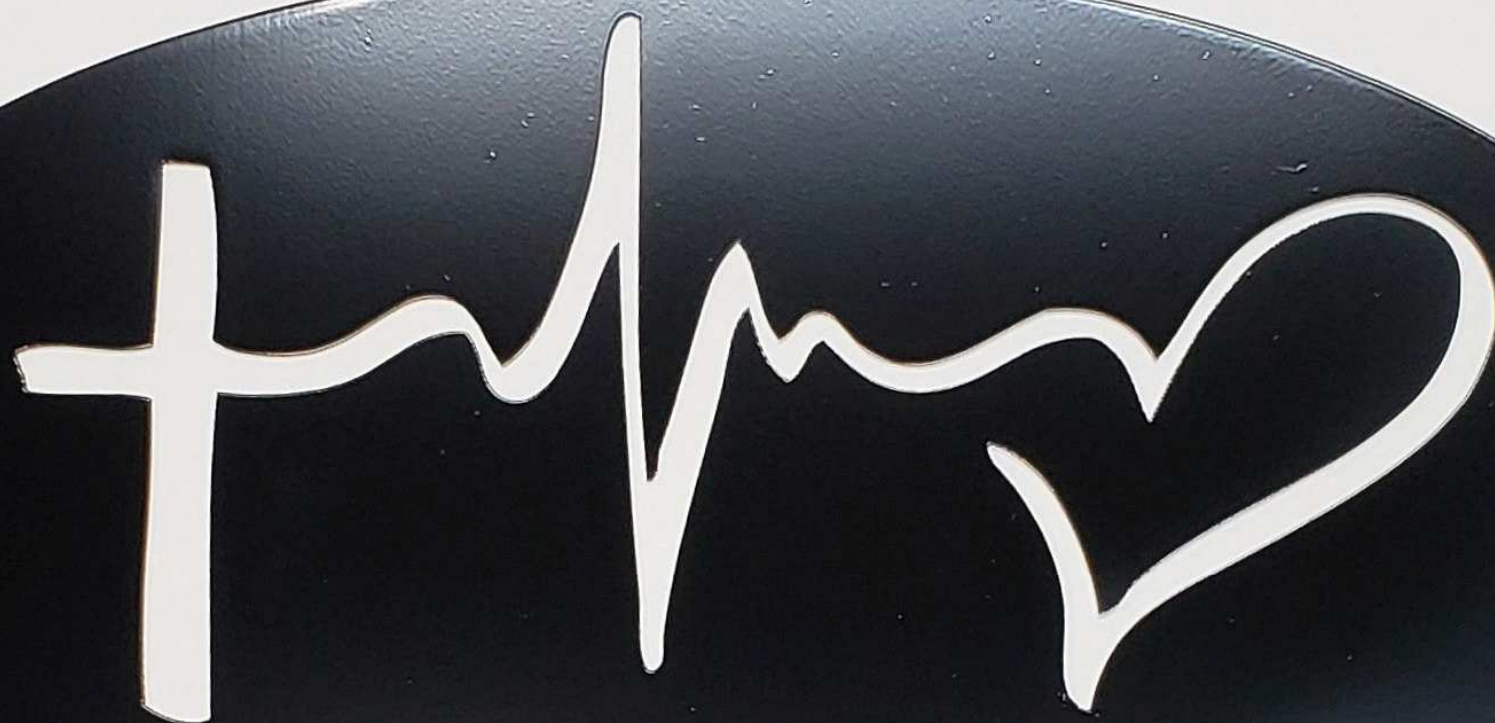
- Picture hope as a strong oak tree
 - The ground from which hope can grow is the grace of God and the gospel of Christ – joy and peace
 - The sprouting of the tree, the beginning of hope, happens in regeneration, or new birth
 - The nutriment that sustains this new hope and makes it grow strong is the Word of God, especially the promises

Our Source Of Joy and Peace

- Picture hope as a strong oak tree
 - The strong fibers of the wooden trunk are the confident expectation that someday we will meet Christ face to face
 - We will have new bodies that never get sick or hurt again
 - We will be totally free from the struggle with sin
 - We will share in the glory of God
 - We will never be threatened with loss because the new life will last forever and ever
 - We will once again have what God had planned for us in the Garden
- Grasping the truth of this will produce joy and peace in your circumstances which will lead to a firm hope

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- When joy and peace take root, hope will be a spring of eternal life in our heart, mind, days, future
- **Psalm 147:10-11 NIV**, 10 His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; 11 the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.



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