



"The Peace of the Spirit" – Cultivate – Week 3
September 21, 2025
Sermon by Pastor Tim Ghali

Group Leader Notes

This is our third week in our new series *Cultivate* as we look at what it means to live out the Christian virtues bore from a Spirit-filled life. This year, we want to continue to grow in our discipleship together. We desire to pray deeper, draw closer to God and with each other. And continue to take the love and goodness of Jesus to bless the world around us. May the Lord cultivate His virtues in us. This week we are looking at the virtue of "Peace." How do we live at peace in the midst of such violent and chaotic times? In addition to the violence around us and in us, there is also anxiety surrounding us that also robs us of our peace. Today we want to see how Jesus' type of peace is different than the world's offering of peace. So, let's begin with prayer.

Take Home Message:

When our lives are transformed by the Holy Spirit, we can grow in the peace of Jesus.

Main Scripture Reading:

- John 14:15-27

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

- **Q** – Pastor Tim began his sermon by sharing one of his favorite passages in Scripture – the moment when the resurrected Jesus entered the upper room where the disciples were hiding. Of all the things he could have said, his first words were, "Shalom." What do you find interesting and noteworthy of Jesus' giving a blessing of peace on the other side of death and now resurrected?
- **Q** – Let's read John 14:15-27 together. What quick observations strike you? What questions does this passage raise for you? And is there anything that stands out as fresh or powerful?
- **Q** – In this section, we see that Jesus is about to be arrested and crucified and He is preparing His disciples for what is going to come next. This includes the coming of the Holy Spirit. According to Jesus, what will the Holy Spirit do for the disciples?

- **Q** – Paraphrasing Jesus, in Verse 27 he says, “I give you peace, not the like world gives peace, but my peace.” Jesus’ vision of peace/shalom is three-fold – the absence of violence, the blessing of mutual flourishing, and being in the presence of God (through the Holy Spirit). How does this vision of shalom contrast with the world’s offering of peace?
- **Q** – If your group feels inspired to engage in our current cultural moment, have a controlled, othering-one another conversation: How can the church model Jesus’ shalom in the midst of this violent world and especially now in this cultural intensity?
- **Q** – The premise of this series is that as we grow in the Holy Spirit, our lives will cultivate the fruit that includes virtues such as peace. What are steps you are taking to live in the fullness of the Spirit and to show the peace of Christ to all you encounter?

Let’s Pray