

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Devotional



PEACE

Monday, 30 June – Sunday, 6 July 2025

July 2025

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
28	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
29	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31	28	29	30	31			

Agápē-Shaped Peace

But the fruit of the Spirit is love [agápē], joy, peace ... Galatians 5:22

What does it mean to live in peace—not just in fleeting moments of calm, but in a peace that **lasts, restores, and transforms**?



The world's peace is often shallow: a quiet built on avoidance, control, or retreat. But the peace born of the Spirit—the fruit of a life rooted in *agápē*—is radically different. Deeper. Truer. Unshakable.

Earlier in this series, we noted how Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit in the singular ("the fruit is..."), a unity with diverse flavours. This week, we focus on peace—or as we're calling it, agápē-shaped peace. This is not merely the absence of conflict or anxiety, but the active presence of **wholeness, reconciliation, and rest**.

The Greek word for peace, *eirēnē*, comes from a root meaning "to join." It speaks of shattered things being woven back together. This peace binds: restoring unity with God, harmony within ourselves, and bridges between others. In Hebrew, it echoes *shalom*—a vision of completeness, flourishing, and God's order reigning.

Agápē-shaped peace is love in motion: mending relationships, steadying hearts in storms, and enduring even in suffering. We cannot manufacture it; it is **grown by the Spirit** in those who walk with Him.

This devotional will explore the dimensions of agape-shaped peace:

Day 1. The Ground of All Peace

Day 2. Unshakable Within

Day 3. Unshakeable Peace

Day 4. Double-Portion Peace

Day 5. Agápē's Unbreakable Bond

Day 6. The Reconcilers

Each day will invite you to not only reflect on the truth of Spirit-grown peace but to step into it, experience it, and live it. You're not just reading about peace—you're returning to the source of it: the Spirit who joins all things back together through love.

This is not theoretical. This is personal. The fruit is already growing. Let's explore it together.

Adewale Adefuye
Ipswich
26 June 2025

Schrödinger's Cat: Abraham, Isaac, and the Paradox of Obedience

adeWale Adefuye

Yesterday, I was trying to explain my feelings in response to a text from a dear brother. I know God always causes us to walk in victory—I'm fully persuaded of that. It's settled in my heart. Yet, at the same time, there's this gnawing feeling of uncertainty. How do I express that tension without betraying my faith?

That's when Genesis 22 came to my rescue.

The Paradox of Isaac: Dead Yet Alive

The story of Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah (Genesis 22:6-8) is one of the most profound and unsettling narratives in Scripture—a moment where faith and dread, obedience and paradox, intertwine. As Abraham walks with his son toward sacrifice, he exists in a state of spiritual superposition, much like Schrödinger's cat—a thought experiment in which a cat in a box is simultaneously alive and dead until observed. When Isaac asks, "Where is the lamb?", Abraham's reply—"God Himself will provide"—holds a tension that defies human logic. In that moment, Isaac is both the sacrificial lamb and the promised heir. Abraham, in obedience to God's command, must act as though Isaac is already slain, yet he also clings to the promise that through Isaac, his descendants will be as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5).

- He sees Isaac as dead—because faith requires surrender. He has already, in his heart, given him up (Hebrews 11:17-19).
- He sees Isaac as alive—because God's covenant cannot be broken. He trusts that somehow, beyond reason, God will fulfil His word.

This is the quantum state of faith: holding two seemingly contradictory truths at once.

The Agony and the Assurance

As they ascend Moriah, Abraham's mind must reel with questions:

- Did I hear correctly from God?
- Did I misunderstand Him?
- Will He intervene, or must I go through with this?
- Can resurrection be possible? (Hebrews 11:19 hints at this hope.)

Yet he walks forward. His obedience is not blind—it is visionary, seeing beyond the present horror to the faithfulness of God.

The Divine Resolution

At the last moment, God provides the ram, revealing the deeper truth: He does not desire child sacrifice (a stark contrast to the pagan gods of the time). Instead, He tests the heart. Abraham's faith was never about the killing of Isaac—it was about whether he valued the Giver more than the gift.

In the end, Isaac is spared, but Abraham's faith has already passed through the fire. He has lived in the paradox, holding both death and life in tension until God reveals His provision.

Conclusion: Our Own Moriah Moments

Like Abraham, we often find ourselves suspended between certainty in God's promises and uncertainty in our present circumstances. We know He is faithful, yet we feel the weight of the unknown.

But faith is not the absence of tension—it's the **assurance that walks forward anyway. We express our fears without betraying our faith** when we say, "I don't see the ram yet... but I know God will provide."

"And the two walked on together." (Genesis 22:8)
They walked—not in certainty of the outcome, but in certainty of God.

So today, if you're caught between what you **know** and what you feel, remember: **faith isn't the denial of struggle. It's the decision to keep walking, trusting that the One who called you will also meet you on the mountain.**



The Ground of All Peace

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (BSB)



Peace doesn't start with our feelings. It starts with God's action.

Our text today tells us plainly: because we've been justified by faith, we *have* peace with God. It's not something we earn. It's something we've received—fully and finally—through Jesus Christ.

This is **agápē-shaped peace** at its core. The Greek word for peace, *eirēnē*, means “to join together.” Through Christ's sacrificial love (agápē), God has joined us back to Himself. He didn't wait for us to reach Him—He came down in love and brought us home.

That means you don't have to work for God's approval. You don't have to manage His mood. You don't have to fix yourself to be loved.

You *already* have peace with God if you have been justified by faith.

And when that becomes your foundation, a deep and steady peace begins to grow inside. That's what the Spirit cultivates in you—not surface calm, but soul-level rest. Peace that comes from being fully known, fully forgiven, and fully secure.

This is where Spirit-born peace begins: **being joined to God by His love, not by your effort.**



a) Am I living today like I *have* peace with God, or like I'm still trying to earn it? _____

b) Where am I striving for something, God has already given me? _____

c) What would shift in me if I truly lived from this foundation? _____

Prayer Father, I *thank You* that right now—fully, irreversibly—I stand at peace with



You through Jesus. This is no fragile truce, but a blood-sealed reconciliation. I *speak* to every accusing voice of guilt, fear, and striving: *Be silenced* by the cross! *Plant* me so deeply in Your love that no storm can uproot Your peace in me. *Train* me to live from this reality: When guilt whispers, I *declare* Romans 8:1. When fear shouts, I *claim* 2 Timothy 1:7. When striving wearies me, I *rest* in Hebrews 4:10. Let Your peace *flow* through me to disrupt chaos wherever I go.



Unshakeable Within

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid. (BSB)



There is a kind of peace that comes when circumstances align—when the noise quiets, the inbox empties, the world behaves. But that’s the world’s version: temporary, external, and easily stolen.

Jesus offers something deeper: **His peace**.

And He gave it to you.

“*My peace I give to you.*” That’s a present-tense promise. It’s not a future reward or a vague feeling. It’s a **gift already placed within you**, cultivated by the Holy Spirit who dwells inside.

This is **peace within**—an inner stillness that flows from knowing you are joined to God by His *agape* love. When love secures you, fear loses its grip. When grace defines you, anxiety shrinks. You don’t have to perform your way into calm or control your way into rest.

Jesus says: *Don’t let your heart be troubled. Don’t let it be afraid.* Why? Because **you carry His peace now**, not because life is easy, but because *He is with you and in you*.

And the Spirit grows that peace like fruit—quietly, organically, and often unnoticed—until you find that chaos doesn’t shake you like it used to. You’re rooted in something deeper than emotion. **You’re rooted in agape.**



- a) What do I usually depend on for peace—control, certainty, comfort?
 - b) Have I been treating peace like a condition or a gift?
 - c) What would it look like to let Jesus’ peace rule in my heart today?
 - d) What trouble or fear am I allowing to disrupt Christ’s peace in me?
 - e) How might practicing His presence (Psalm 16:8) change my anxiety patterns?
-

Prayer



Thank You Heavenly Father for Your peace which You have given through Your Son. I *receive* it freely, fully and forever. I *renounce* the lie that I must strive for calm or seek it in empty places. Your Spirit lives in me, so I *declare*: Christ’s peace *silences* every storm in my mind now. I *command* the noise of fear to still—in Jesus’ name—and I *choose* to stand firm in Your love. Train me to *live* from this unshakable confidence, to *breathe* in Your presence, and to *carry* Your peace into every battle. Amen.

GIVING
as an act of worship
BEFORE GOD

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

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Unshakeable Peace

Psalms 119:165

Great peace have they who love Your law; nothing shall offend them or make them stumble. (AMP)



What kind of peace can be called **great**? Abundant, anchoring, unshakable stability that goes beyond surface-level calm. Not shallow peace. Not brief relief. This peace isn't found in ignorance or escapism but in loving God's instruction. In a world of shifting opinions and emotional whiplash, God offers His people great peace. The Hebrew word for "love" here echoes agape—a covenantal, enduring devotion.

This kind of peace comes not from perfect conditions but from a heart rooted in the Word of God—rooted in **truth**, in **covenant**, in **love**. When you treasure God's Word, you're aligning your inner world with His agape will. You're choosing to live inside the story where His voice defines reality. Many times, we come to know who we are by discovering of which story or stories we are a part.¹ And what happens, once you know the story of which you are a part? You walk steadily. *"Nothing can make them stumble."*

Because when you know what's true—when love shapes how you think, respond, and trust—peace becomes your path.

Agape-shaped peace grows where love and truth meet. It's not merely emotional—it's deeply grounded. This peace isn't fragile because it isn't based on appearances. It's based on alignment with the heart of God.

To "love God's law" in this verse is not legalism—it's *relational loyalty*. It means cherishing His ways because you trust His heart. You walk in His Word not to prove yourself but because you've already been joined to Him through love. That Word becomes the lamp under your feet and the compass for your mind. And that brings great peace.

Reflect a) What voices do I listen to more than God's Word?



- a) Do I see Scripture as a burden or a source of peace?
b) How can I walk more fully in God's ways today?

Prayer Father, I *declare* You are the God of peace, not confusion.



Your Word *will* shape my thoughts today—every lie *bends* to its truth.

Your Spirit *guides* my steps now; no snare will trap me. Ps. 119:105

I *command* every storm within me: *Be still* by the authority of Jesus' name. Mark 4:39

Your peace *anchors* my soul—unshaken, unmoved. Heb. 6:19

Ignite in me a fiery love for Your truth. Ps. 119:97 *Pave* my path with Your peace Luke

1:79—not as the world gives, but as only You can. John 14:27

¹ See Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory*



Double-Portion Peace

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. (ESV)

You will guard him *and* keep him in perfect *and* constant peace whose mind [both its inclination and its character] is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You, *and* hopes confidently in You. (AMP)



Perfect peace—is that possible? The prophet Isaiah says yes but. But what? Not because life becomes perfect; it flows from the **presence of trust**.

The Hebrew expression *shalom shalom*—translated as “perfect peace”—is no ordinary calm. It’s a deliberate repetition to express God’s multiplied peace guarding believers in chaos.

The key lies in the word “**stayed**”—a mind steadfastly supported by God, much like a child fast asleep in their parent’s arms—completely relaxed, not because the world is quiet, but because they trust who’s holding them. This isn’t fleeting calm or emotional escape. It is *wholeness held steady by trust*—a soul that refuses to drift because it’s anchored in God’s unchanging love.

Isaiah says this peace belongs to the one whose **mind is stayed**—fixed, focused, leaning hard—on the Lord. Not on outcomes. Not on what-ifs. Not even on our own strength. But on *Him*. On His character. On His *agape*.

The kind of peace grows in a heart that allows agape to shape how it thinks. A mind formed by *agape* refuses panic. It doesn’t spin in cycles of anxiety. It chooses to return, again and again, to the trustworthiness of God. This peace isn’t automatic—it’s cultivated. It isn’t passive; it’s active. It doesn’t mean emotions disappear. But it means that even in sorrow, confusion, or delay, there is a deeper current of calm: “**He will keep you in perfect peace...**”

Reflect



- What has my mind been “stayed” on lately?
- What would it look like today to fix my focus on God’s love instead of my fear?
- How might peace grow if I let agape shape my thoughts?

Prayer Father, my mind is quick to wander—but I choose now to anchor it in who You are. I name my fears, but I don’t give them the final word. I fix my focus on Your faithfulness. I hold fast to Your love, and I walk today in the peace You’ve already planted in me. I won’t wait for peace to happen—I will live like it’s mine. In You, it is.





Agápē's Unbreakable Bond

Ephesians 4:1-3

¹ As a prisoner in the Lord, then, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received: ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ and with diligence to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (BSB)



Agape-shaped peace is never private.

The peace God gives you isn't just meant to calm your heart—it's meant to **shape your relationships**. According to Paul, peace doesn't just exist between you and God; it's a **bond** that ties the whole body of Christ together.

But this bond doesn't come naturally. That's why we're called to *make every effort*—not to create peace, but to **keep** it. The Spirit has already established unity through Christ; our role is to protect it with humility, gentleness, and patience.

That's where *agape* comes in. Agape doesn't just tolerate people—it *bears with them* in love. It doesn't need to win the argument or control the situation. It listens. It forgives. It bridges instead of breaks.

When we walk in agape-shaped peace, we learn to see others as God sees them: flawed but beloved, imperfect but included. Our unity becomes less about agreement and more about commitment—less about being right, more about staying together.

This peace is not passive—it's a **choice**. A discipline. A fruit.

And it is only possible when our hearts are rooted in the peace we've received from God. That peace becomes our posture toward others.

Reflect



- Where am I being invited to bear with someone in love?
 - Have I been guarding peace in my relationships—or disrupting it?
 - What would it look like to respond with humility, gentleness, and patience today?
 - What relationship requires me to "make every effort" this week?
 - How can I pursue peace without compromising truth (Ephesians 4:15)?
-

Prayer Father, You've already made us one—I choose to act like it.



I will let Your peace lead my responses, shift my tone, and guide what matters most. I commit to bearing with others—not out of duty, but because You've carried me in love. Today, I show up as a peacemaker. I won't wait for harmony; I will help create it. In Your strength, by Your Spirit. Amen.



The Reconcilers

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. (BSB)



The peace God gives was never meant to stop with you. Jesus didn't say, "Blessed are the peaceful." He said, "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*"

That means peace is not just something you enjoy—it's something you **extend**. You receive it in love, and then you give it in love. **Agape-shaped peace multiplies.**

To be a peacemaker is to reflect your Father. That's why Jesus says they'll be "called sons of God"—because they bear the family resemblance. God is the Great Reconciler, and His children carry that same DNA. Peacemakers step into brokenness and bring wholeness. They don't ignore conflict or escape discomfort. They face it—*with the love of God, humility, and healing intent*.

This kind of peace isn't soft or passive. It's bold. It stands in the gap. It's a peace that costs something. And the Spirit equips us to live this way—not by pretending everything is fine, but by living as people already made whole in Christ. When you're grounded in the peace of being known and loved by God, you're free to move toward others with open hands, not clenched fists.

Agape-shaped peace multiplies when we move toward the world as Christ did—not to conquer, but to reconcile.

Reflect



- a) Where is God inviting me to be a peacemaker today?
 - b) What would it look like to carry peace into my conversations, my home, my community?
 - c) Am I willing to be uncomfortable in order to bring healing?
-

Prayer Father of Peace, thank You for Your peace which we have received. I



refuse to keep Your peace to myself. I will carry it wherever I go. I step into tension as a bridge-builder, not a bystander.

I will speak with grace, move with courage, and lead with love—not because it's easy, but because it reflects *You*.

Today, I choose to multiply peace—boldly, intentionally, and with joy.

In Christ, I am a peacemaker.

GIVING
as an act of worship
BEFORE GOD
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

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PAUSE

OBSERVE

REFLECT

From Fruit to Flow

Peace is not just a virtue to admire—it is a reality to live.

You were never meant to just survive this life quietly.

You were created to walk in **wholeness**—rooted in agape, shaped by the Spirit, and overflowing with peace.

Let His peace keep you, ground you, and flow through you.

Let it **multiply**—from your heart into the world.

What am I thankful for in this week's devotional? _____

What have I done this week in response to what I heard or read? _____

How do I understand what I have read and heard in the last five days?

What is God is telling me?

PLAN

What am I going to do about it -

and

Immediately?

DO

In the next few days?

How can I be accountable?

Declare boldly

I don't want to deceive myself. I hear the Word; I read the Word & I do the Word.



Pray boldly: Father, I am Your child, I carry Your DNA. I am who You say I am, can do what You say I can do, have what You say I have. Your grace is sufficient for me 🙏

Life in the Kingdom of God was not designed to be lived in isolation. Did you know that most of the 'you' in the New Testament are plural? They are for 'all of you.' Check the 'one another's' in the New Testament. How many can you find? And what do they tell us?