

INSIDE OUT

NINE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

The Fruit of the Spirit
#3 Peace
The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Mahood
February 26, 2017

Note to leaders: please be aware that not everyone in every group has come to faith in Jesus Christ and knows Him as their Saviour. Section one of this study (*Alignment with God*) is designed to help people come to faith and help people share their faith with others.

This study is based on the word "peace". It is the third fruit of the Spirit.

1. "War is defined as an active conflict that has claimed more than 1,000 lives. Of the past **3,400 years**, humans have been entirely at peace for 268 of them, or just 8 percent of recorded history. At least 108 million people were killed in wars in the twentieth century". ---New York Times
 - a. Why do you think there is so much conflict in the world?
 - b. There is even conflict among Christians. Why is that?
2. READ: Galatians 5:22-23
 - a. Where does the peace come from that is mentioned here?
 - b. Where do you need, or could you use, more peace in your life?
Can you explain why?
3. During the Sunday sermon, peace was defined as follows: (please read this out loud)
PEACE IS A STRESS FREE STATE OF SECURITY AND CALMNESS THAT COMES WHEN WE ALIGN OURSELVES WITH GOD, HIS WORD AND OTHERS.
 - a. How would you describe a 'stress free state of security and calmness'? What would that look like to you?
 - b. What do you think it means to 'align ourselves' with God? What does it mean to be in alignment?
 - c. What are the three areas of alignment that are mentioned in the definition?
 - d. Try to explain what happens if we are out of alignment in any of those areas.

ALIGNMENT WITH GOD

1. READ: Romans 8:1-4
 - a. Express in your own words what Paul is saying.
 - b. What does it mean not to be condemned before God?
 - c. Why do you think so many people feel condemned before God?
 - d. Do you think God likes you? Why or why not?
2. READ: John 3:16-17
 - a. How does this verse express the idea of being in alignment with God?
3. READ: Ephesians 2:8-9
 - a. Based on all of the verses in the above section what would you say to someone who wanted to bring their life in alignment with God? How would you explain it to them?

COMMENT: Alignment with God is the basic message of salvation and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Asking God for His forgiveness is the first and fundamental step in getting our lives in line with God's and experiencing the peace that comes with not being condemned for our sins and wrong doing. If you have not experienced this, why not take a moment and ask God for his forgiveness and experience his peace. If you have questions someone in your group can help you.

ALIGNMENT WITH GOD'S WORD

1. What do you think it means to bring your life in line with God's word?
2. In what ways do you think misalignment with God's word robs us of peace?
3. READ: Philippians 4:4-7
 - a. What specific instructions are we given in verse 4-6?
 - b. What is the result in our lives if we follow the instructions?
 - c. Why do you think so many people don't do this?
 - d. What do you think we get out of being anxious and what do you think it will accomplish?
4. Discuss the following statement:

ANXIETY IS TRYING TO CONTROL SOMETHING YOU CAN'T CONTROL

 - a. In what ways is anxiety an attempt to control a situation?
 - b. If you can't control something (some situation or some person) why do you continue to try to control it?
 - c. What reasons could you give for someone who chooses to be constantly anxious? What do you think they are trying to achieve?
5. Discuss this statement:

WHILE WE CANNOT CONTROL THE EVENTS OF LIFE WE CAN CONTROL HOW WE THINK ABOUT THEM
6. READ: Philippians 4:4:8-9
 - a. What are we told to think about here?
 - b. Define the words that Paul uses to tell us what we are to think about.
 - c. What is true, noble, pure right, etc mean?
 - d. What examples in daily life can you give to put this thinking into practice?
 - e. What is the promised result of this type of thinking?
 - f. Why do we choose not to do this?
 - g. In what area of your life do you need to begin to think differently? (if you're comfortable please share this with your group; your transparency will help others)

ALIGNMENT WITH OTHERS

1. READ: Colossians 3:15-16
 - a. How does our alignment with God and alignment with His word work to help us bring alignment with each other and peace in the body of Christ?
 - b. What instructions are we given in this verse?

2. FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION: If there is someone in the body of Christ with whom you are misaligned? What steps could you take this week to seek peace?

3. Discuss this statement and how it relates to being in alignment with God and experiencing peace:

SAFETY CONSISTS NOT IN THE ABSENCE OF DANGER BUT IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

FOR REFLECTION AT HOME:

- 1. Is your life in alignment with God? Do you know you are forgiven and God holds nothing against you? Or do you feel that God is just waiting for you to mess up? How could you correct this thinking for this week's study?
- 2. To what degree is your life aligned with God's word: a little, somewhat, a lot? Are there things you continue to do, or patterns of thinking you continue to use that are not aligned with His word? What steps could you take this week to bring yourself more in alignment? Why not list a few of those steps below and hold yourself accountable.

3. Are you out of alignment with other believers in the body of Christ, the church? List their names here:

What steps could you begin to take to be a peacemaker and bring your life in alignment with others?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE:

1. The mission to Attawapiskat has been postponed indefinitely. The high school cannot be reopened so the children are using the community centre for their schooling. We were planning on using the community centre for the Feast, so this is no longer logistically possible. We will prayerful, waiting on the Lord to see what He wants us to do in the future.

NOTE: We can 1) refund your financial gift, 2) hold it for future mission in Attawapiskat, or 3) apply it to the mission to the Dominican Republic taking place in May. Please let us know what you would like us to do with your contribution.

2. A mission trip is being planned for May 5-13 to the Dominican Republic, working with GoMad (Go Make a Difference). If you are interested in participating, or want more information, email missions@allnationschurch.ca or speak with Pastor Josh Sklar or Luc Boileau (or contact the church office).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. THE FOLD:
A night of worship and praise for young adults, ages 18-30 at All Nations Church on Saturday March 11th, 7 p.m. Check out more information on Facebook at [Facebook.com/thefoldanc](https://www.facebook.com/thefoldanc), or on Instagram @thefoldanc.
2. MARCH BREAK MEDIA CAMP:
If you would like hands on experience in the media production area of All Nations Church, consider spending your March break (March 13-17, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) in the production of a music video. You will learn all aspects of media production while helping local Christian artist Kassie Tyers. Contact Pastor Atheson for cost and details at aharper@allnationschurch.ca or call the church office at 705-673-6110. This is a Great learning initiative for the young person or young adult in your life...and maybe even you!
3. ALL NATIONS CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE:
We have just complete our first full year in our Mission Outpost! We are planning to Share a financial update and budgets with you, as well as report on the 20 x 2020 Mission on Sunday morning April 2nd immediately after the service.