One of the great blessings that are ours in Christ is His peace that He has both secured for us and given to us. Indeed the Holy Spirit whom Christ sent to teach and comfort us gives us a spiritual peace from God that is rich and full.

John 14:25-27 - 25 "These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. 27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. NASB

This peace that Christ gives, much like spiritual joy, is a thing that only true born again Christians can experience. It comes to us from Christ, “not as the world gives,” but it is Christ’s peace that He gives to His people. “My peace I give to you,” says Jesus to His disciples, indicating that it is a unique spiritual blessing that He gives only to His own people who have been born of the Spirit. God has always blessed His people with His own gift of peace.

Psalm 29:11 - 11 The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace. NASB

It has always been a common greeting, salutation and benediction exchanged between God’s people because God has always wished His people to abide in peace.

Numbers 6:22-26 - 22 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 23 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: 24 The Lord bless you, and keep you; 25 The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; 26 The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.' NASB

We are all familiar with the common Hebrew blessing “Shalom,” which is a greeting offering peace. But even in the New Testament, peace is a common salutation.

1 Corinthians 1:3 - 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. NASB

Ephesians 6:23-24 - 23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible. NASB

And of course God wishes peace upon His people because His very character and nature is Peace, for He is the God of peace.

Hebrews 13:20-21 - 20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, 21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. NASB

2 Thessalonians 3:16 - 16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all! NASB

Indeed peace is a gift granted by God and this because Jesus Himself is the Prince of Peace who’s Kingdom and rule will abide forever in peace.

Isaiah 9:6-7 - 6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. NASB

And since Christ has reconciled us in peace to God, He has also reconciled us to all men. He “Himself” has become “our peace” having overcome all our enmity toward all men and granted us His Spirit of peace to rule in our hearts and turn us into His people of peace.

Ephesians 2:13-18 - 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. NASB
Colossians 3:15 - 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. NASB

Indeed Christ has **reconciled us to all men** so that there remains no reason for prejudice or tension toward people of any race, gender, or social class.

*Galatians 3:28 - 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* NASB

We have been overcome by the **sweet peace** of the **Prince of Peace** and long to live in a world of peace which He will soon bring to pass. And this is because peace is a fruit of the Spirit. It is a product of the powerful work of the Spirit within us and a result of living in God’s Kingdom.

*Galatians 5:22-23 - 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. NASB*

*Romans 14:16-17 - 16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. NASB*

*Romans 8:6-9 - 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. NASB*

Another obvious reason that this peace is a spiritual peace enjoyed by the Spirit filled Christian is that it comes as a benefit of the **Gospel and faith and union with Christ.** This is the very thing the angel announced had arrived with the birth of Jesus the Messiah, and also that the Apostles preached about the **Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

*Luke 2:13-14 - 13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." NASB*

*Acts 10:36 - 6 "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)" — NASB*

This is because in the **Gospel and upon faith in Christ, peace with God is both offered and secured.** This is a powerful result of **Justification by Faith alone in Christ alone.**

*Romans 5:1-2 - 1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. NASB*

*Colossians 1:19-20 - 19 For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. NASB*

Through Christ’s atoning work, we have been **reconciled to God** and have **peace with God.** Our **alienation from God** because of sin and His wrath toward us have been appeased by Christ’s **sacrifice in our place.** Therefore our hearts can rest in peace, knowing that God is now for us, and not against us, now that our sins have been put away by the cross, and we have been adopted into God’s family through Christ’s powerful work. Now God’s peace is a blessing bestowed upon those who believe the sure promises of His Word and trust Him with God given faith.

*Psalm 119:165 - 165 Those who love Thy law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble. NASB*

*Proverbs 3:1-2 - 1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; 2 For length of days and years of life, And peace they will add to you. NASB*

*Isaiah 26:3-4 - 3 "The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in Thee. 4 "Trust in the Lord forever, For in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock. NASB*

This peace of Christ gives to us an inner tranquility and **confidence** that overcomes even the difficult trials that we face in life. It is said to “**surpass all comprehension**” and “**guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”** “**In Christ Jesus**” is an obvious reference to our **union with Christ** that we enjoy being one with Him in spiritual union, His very presence of peace guarding our hearts from the “**tribulation in the world**” (John 16:33).
Romans 15:13 - 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. NASB
John 16:33 - 33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." NASB

As a result of this peace with God that we have through our Lord Jesus Christ, we are now also called to be His people of peace, peacemakers and ambassadors of His peace in the church and to the world. We Christians can no longer take up the sword against others, but must seek peace and pursue it.

Matthew 5:9 - 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. NASB
Colossians 3:15 - 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. NASB
Ephesians 4:1-3 - 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. NASB
Romans 12:18 - 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. NASB
Hebrews 12:14 - 14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. NASB
Proverbs 16:7 - 7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. NASB

Because we live under Christ's rule in the Kingdom of God, we must abide in peace and pursue the peace of God always.

Romans 14:16-19 - 16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. NASB

This is because as God's own dear children bearing His likeness, we must be people of peace, for that is the very nature of God within us by the Holy Spirit.

James 3:17-18 - 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. NASB

Let us therefore hear God's exhortation to "live in peace" and thereby be called the "sons of God!"

2 Corinthians 13:11 - 11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. NASB

Patience
Having looked at the first triad (love, joy, peace) of the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit, we come to the second triad (patience, kindness, goodness). Patience is similar to those virtues we have already looked at in the fact that it is both an attribute of God and also a fruit of the Spirit within us.

Galatians 5:22-23 - 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. NASB

Patience is a virtue closely related to the virtue of forbearance. In fact forbearance is one way we might describe patience and the Scripture uses it in connection with patience often. Patience is that forbearing temperance of attitude that suffers long or endures with difficult circumstances or troublesome people and this it does without complaint. Nelson's Bible Dictionary defines PATIENCE this way; "Forbearance under suffering and endurance in the face of adversity. Two Greek words are translated as patience: makrothymia and hypomone. Makrothymia generally expresses patience with regard to people. It is also translated longsuffering as a quality of God (Rom 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9) and is listed by the apostle Paul as one
of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22). The second word, hypomone, generally expresses patience with regard to things. It may be described as the quality that enables a person to be "patient in tribulation" (Rom 12:12). "end quote.

Now patience is surely an attribute of God. Men may tempt and provoke God, and God patiently endures with them. God is said to be “slow to anger” and enduring patiently the “objects of His wrath.”

Psalm 103:8 - 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. NASB

Romans 9:22-25 - 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles. NASB

God certainly has His purposes in patiently enduring those who provoke Him. As He waits to bring judgment upon the world at the Second Coming of Christ, His patience means that more people will come to know Him and be saved.

2 Peter 3:9, 14-15 - 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. . . . 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless. 15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, NASB

Often times God’s patience works for the good of His people in the various trials and circumstances and even in the midst of our sins. Consider how Paul describes how God used him as an example of His patience.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 - 15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. NASB

Or how the Scripture tells us that God’s forbearance and patience leads us to repentance.

Romans 2:3-6 - 3 And do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment upon those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. 6 who will render to every man according to his deeds: NASB

One thing is for sure, we all ought to be thankful for the “perfect patience” of God and this beautiful virtue of patient forbearance, for if God were not patient toward His sinful creatures, the entire world would be consumed in the fire of His judgment. Now because this patience is a virtue that is also an attribute of God, Christians are therefore called to demonstrate and practice this virtue. We are called to be forbearing and patient with others as well as composed and patiently endure the hardships and trials of life with grumbling or complaining.

Philippians 2:14-15 - 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, NASB

In the church we are to keep “the unity of the Spirit” that we already possess by “showing forbearance with patience” toward “one another.”

Ephesians 4:1-3 - 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. NASB