

Spiritual Gifts: *The Three Harmonies*

(Peace, Joy & Love)

Daniel Borchers

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Children's Prayer

I'd like all the children to stand up, please.

Let me thank those of you who sang for this year's Passion Play. Your singing of "Yes, Jesus Loves Me" was delightful. I hope and I pray that you really believe the words of that song.

This prayer is for you. Let us pray.

Dear Father in heaven. You are our Father. You love us beyond measure. We pray now that You let Your hand rest mightily upon Your children who are here before You, that You immerse them in Your love, and that You give them a sense of peace, a sense of belonging, a sense of safety and fulfillment in You. Let these children know of Your incredible love for them. Let them be forever reassured that You are forever with them. Let this sense of peace and belonging and safety rest upon them and dwell in them. Fill these children with a sense of *being*, a sense of *identity* and a sense of *completeness* in You. And may Your adult children also experience this miracle in their lives. Thank You, Jesus, for Your love and Your faithfulness. In Your name, Amen.

Now, for a presentation on spiritual gifts, let me introduce you to Dan Borchers.

The Three Harmonies

Today we'll be discussing the spiritual gifts of peace, joy and love.

While love, joy and peace are the top three *fruit* of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23, they are also spiritual *gifts*. These three spiritual gifts from God all relate to our *sense of being* and to our *sense of identity* as children of God. These gifts give us a *sense of completeness* in Him.

God promises to give each of us these three spiritual gifts which are beyond human comprehension: ***unsurpassing peace; inexpressible joy; unfailing love.***

Peace

Unsurpassing peace is talked about in Philippians 4:7.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the **peace** of God, which **surpasses** all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

This peace from God guards our hearts and minds. Peace is a *protective* gift.

Moreover, Jesus Christ is *our* peace and *we* are called to be peacemakers, called to a ministry of reconciliation.

Ephesians 2:14-22	For He Himself is our peace ...
Matthew 5:9	Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
Matthew 11:28-30	“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
John 14:27	“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, neither let it be afraid.”
John 16:33	“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
Romans 5:1	Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Colossians 1:19-20	For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.
Colossians 3:15	And let the of peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

In Psalm 23, King David wrote about walking through the valley of the shadow of death and fearing no evil. Facing death itself without fear. Peace. We sing of “peace, like a river” attending our souls in *It Is Well With My Soul*. This is the spiritual gift of peace. This *protective* gift guards our hearts and minds.

Joy

Inexpressible joy is mentioned in 1st Peter 1:8.

1 st Peter 1:8	Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.
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This joy from God is our *strength*. Joy is a *rejuvenating* gift.

Moreover, Jesus Christ is also our joy and we are exhorted to rejoice, and again, I say, rejoice!

Psalm 16:11	You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Nehemiah 8:10	Then he said to them, “... Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”
John 15:11	“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”
John 17:13	“But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

Romans 15:13 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.

1st Peter 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

Throughout our life experiences, Jesus wants us to share in His joy, to embrace the gift of joy He gives us, to live a full and abundant life – joyfully! This *rejuvenating* gift gives us new life.

Love

Unfailing love is described in the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians.

1st Corinthians 13:8 **Love never fails.**

This love from God is our *foundation*. Love is a *relational* gift.

Moreover, Jesus Christ is also our love and He wants us to love as He loves.

Nehemiah 9:32 And now, our God, the great and mighty and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of unfailing love ...

Jeremiah 31:3 The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 10:11,15 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ... As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you; that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1st John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1st John 4:7-21 LOVE AS JESUS LOVED

We, brethren – you and I – are told to love as Jesus loves. Humanly speaking, this is impossible. But with God all things are possible. It is the spiritual gift of love which God gives to us which we then express to others. This *relational* gift builds bridges between people and with God.

The Three Harmonies in Song

Today we have looked at three spiritual gifts. For the purposes of this presentation I'm calling these three gifts the three harmonies. These gifts should *blend* together in our lives and provide us with a sense of *being*, a sense of *belonging*, a sense of *completeness* in God.

Peace	–	Psalm 23	<i>It is Well With My Soul</i>
Joy	–	Psalm 95 – 100	<i>A Joyful Heart</i>
Love	–	Psalm 116	<i>No Greater Love / I Love You</i>

Peace is *protective*; joy is *rejuvenating*; love is *relational*. Let these gifts dwell in you richly and may they keep you centered and secure in the palm of Jesus' hand.

PEACE

“and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”
– *Philippians 4:7*

JOY

“you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”
– *1st Peter 1:8*

*unsurpassing
inexpressible
unfailing*

LOVE

“Love never fails.”
– *1st Corinthians 13:8*

Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day!

Since today is Mother's Day, I'd like to first introduce someone to you and then say a few more words to you.

As most of you know, my wife's mother and step-father are visiting from Scotland. Let me introduce to you Rhoda and George. Please stand up.

Happy Mother's Day, Mum. And let me thank you for the gift you have given me – the gift of your daughter, Eileen.

Now for my few more words. I've spoken to you about Eileen before, but now I'd like to say this in the context of spiritual gifts.

Eileen took the spiritual gift survey and her top five gifts are mercy, faith, intercession, music and hospitality.

I met Eileen in 1981. In Scotland. In a barber shop. And I soon fell in love.

I quickly came to know Eileen as someone who is warm, compassionate, generous in her poverty, and concerned about the welfare of others. The spiritual gift of mercy and intercession are very evident in her life. She is quick to forgive, willing to understand, and attentive to help and to bring people and situations to God's throne. The spiritual gift of faith has seen her through the darkest hours. The spiritual gift of music is heard during church services and seen at our church socials. Yes, Eileen has always loved to dance.

Today George and Rhoda discovered that I do not have the spiritual gift of music.

Many of the spiritual gifts are closely connected to truth. As long as I've known Eileen, she has been concerned with and searching for the truth. This is expressed in her character. She is an honest person who can be trusted and who will keep her word. And Eileen has a deep desire to do the right thing.

I am secure in the love of my Lord, Jesus Christ; and I am secure in the love of my wife, Eileen Borchers.

Thank you, Mum, for giving me Eileen. And thank You Jesus for making us one. Thank you.