



“The Fruit of the Spirit is Longsuffering & Kindness”
How To Be A Fruitful Christian Series (Part 4)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-24

> The fruit of the Spirit is LONGSUFFERING – Longsuffering refers primarily to God's patient endurance with the wickedness of the sinful (Ex 34:6-7 - *And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."*).

- The word in the New Testament rendered "longsuffering," *makrothumia* (once *makrothumeo*, "to be longsuffering"), which is the rendering of 'erekh 'appayim in the Septuagint, is literally, "long of mind or soul" (regarded as the seat of the emotions), opposed to shortness of mind or soul, irascibility, impatience, intolerance.

- The purpose of God's longsuffering is to lead people to repentance (Romans 2:4 - *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

- Peter gives us further insight into God's longsuffering in 2 Peter 3:9-15.

- Since God is a God of justice, He cannot endure sin forever. He must ultimately punish all who do not repent and trust in Him for salvation, let's turn to 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10.

- Believers are to imitate God's longsuffering:

#1 – IN LOVE - 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 - *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil*

#2 - IN FORGIVENESS - Ephesians 4:31-32 - *Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

#3 – IN VENGEANCE - Romans 12:19-20 - *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.*

- Longsuffering is a personal attribute in dealing with the issues of life, let's learn from Paul in: 2 Timothy 3:10-12 - *But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra — what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

Also, 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 - *We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*

- Longsuffering breeds unity - Ephesians 4:1-3 - *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

- Pray for longsuffering – Colossians 1:9-12 - *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*

- We are to “PUT ON” longsuffering - Colossians 3:12-14 - *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*

- Finally, Pastors are to preach and teach with longsuffering - 2 Timothy 4:2-5 - *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

> The fruit of the Spirit is KINDNESS - (Heb. - *chechedh*; *chrestotes*): "Kindness" in the Old Testament is (with one exception) the translation of *chechedh*, "kindness," "favor," "mercy," etc., used chiefly of man but also of God (Gen 20:13; 40:14; 1 Sam 15:6; 20:14-15; 2 Sam 9:3; Neh 9:17; Ps 141:5; Isa 54:8,10, etc.)

This kindness speaks of God's loyal love and favor toward His people. In the Old Testament, the word translated as "kindness" or "lovingkindness" refers to God's long-suffering love.

His determination to keep His promises to His chosen people despite their sin and rebellion – Hosea 2:19-20 - *"I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the LORD.*

This attribute of God was shown through His divine mercy and forgiveness toward sinners when payment of sins through the sacrificial system was no longer effective, David's repentant prayer in Psalm 51 is dependent upon God's character, in verse 1 - *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.*

In the New Testament, the Greek word translated as "grace" best represents the idea of God's kindness or lovingkindness - Titus 3:4-7 - *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

- Jesus will unlock the hearts of others if we use these four keys:

(1) Because God has been gracious toward believers, we should treat all people with kindness or grace. Let's look to Luke 6:27-36.

(2) All people are created in God's image and should be treated accordingly, no matter how badly they have twisted and deformed that image we are to communicate with kindness - James 3:1-12.

(3) Kindness is not an apathetic response to sin, but a deliberate act to bring the sinner back to God (Observe the father with his prodigal son - Luke 15:11-32).

(4) Add kindness and receive a precious promise - 2 Peter 1:5-9 - *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*