



Go for God!

“The Fruit of the Spirit is 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 5:22-23

> ***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) We are to treat all people with kindness or grace. Let's look to Luke 6:27-36:

- Love your enemy!

- Bless your enemy!

- Pray for your enemy!

(2) We are to communicate with kindness - James 3:1-12:

- “If you do not stumble in word you are a mature person”

Matthew 12:34-37- For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Prov 16:21- *The wise in heart will be called prudent, and sweetness of the lips increases learning.*
Prov 16:23- *The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.*
Prov 15:28- *The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.*

> **Be a KIND communicator:**

- From *criticisms* to complements!
- From *degrading* to uplifting!
- From *negative* to positive!
- From *cynical* to comical!
- From *gossip* to good news!
- From *sarcasm* (implies an intentional inflicting of pain by deriding, taunting, or ridiculing) to supercallafragilisticexpialadocious!

Ps 34:13- *Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.*

Prov 16:24- *Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.*

Prov 15:1-2- *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.*

Prov 31:26- *She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.*

Eph 4:29- *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

Col 4:6- *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

- **A poem for KINDNESS:**

*A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill.
A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress;
A loving word may heal and bless.*

(3) Kindness is not an apathetic response, but a deliberate act:

- Paul writes in Romans 12:10-13 - *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*

> **Examples of KINDNESS:**

- The father with his prodigal son - Luke 15:11-32
- The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:34
- The Philippian Jailer – Acts. 16:33

(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.*