



*Living Walking Serving*

# FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

## BIBLE STUDY NOTE ON

### THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER – THE HOLY SPIRIT (Joel 2:28-32, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 2:16-21)

#### STUDY 19-14: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: KINDNESS & GOODNESS

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:** Gal. 5:22, Titus 3:4-5; Romans 2:4; 11:22, Psalm 23:2-3, Psalm 17:8; 36:7; 61:4; Matthew 23:37, 1 Kings 17:8-24, Genesis 21:9-21, Mark 6:34; 7:29; 10:46-52, Luke 15:3-7, Isaiah 40:11

#### Introduction

From the "fruit of the Spirit". "Fruit," here, means "beneficial results," the good things that come from the Spirit's indwelling. As the Holy Spirit works in our lives, our character changes. Where we had harbored selfishness, cruelty, rebelliousness, and spite, we now possess love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Everything in the list reflects the character of God,

#### A. The fruit of the Spirit - Kindness

Kindness is the fifth in the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23.

The Greek word for "kindness" is *chrēstotēs*. It means "compassion, benevolence, tender concern, uprightness. It is defined as Sweetness of Temperament, Considerate and Warmhearted. It is kindness of heart and kindness of act.

#### Kindness is God's nature

Kindness is part of God's nature and attributes; the very characteristic that led God to provide salvation for us (Titus 3:4-5; Romans 2:4; 11:22). Kindness leads God to give us green pastures, quiet waters, and the restoration of our souls when we're weary (Psalm 23:2-3). It is God's tender care that makes Him want to gather us under His wings, to protect us and keep us close to Him (Psalm 17:8; 36:7; 61:4; Matthew 23:37). God expressed kindness when He provided for Elijah and the widow of Zarephath during a drought—and He showed more kindness later when He raised the widow's only son from the dead (1 Kings 17:8-24). When Sarah exiled Hagar and Ishmael, God gave the outcasts kindness in the form of water and hope (Genesis 21:9-21). On multiple occasions, kindness induced Jesus to stop what He was doing and help others in need (Mark 6:34; Mark 7:29; Mark 10:46-52). And kindness leads the Good Shepherd to rescue us when we stray (Luke 15:3-7). In kindness He "gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young" (Isaiah 40:11).

When we exhibit the kindness of God, we are tender, benevolent, and useful to others. Every action, every word will have the flavor of grace in it. To maintain this attitude toward those we love is hard enough. To express kindness toward those who are against us requires the work of God (2 Corinthians 6:4-6). That is why kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.

#### The Bible's examples of kindness

Great examples of kindness can inspire us to greater kindness: King David toward Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9). The Shunammite woman and her husband toward Elisha (2 Kings 4:8-10). Dorcas, a beloved woman who "was full of good works and charitable deeds" (Acts 9:36-39). The Samaritan in the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Barnabas, whose name meant "Son of Encouragement" (Acts 4:36).

Another is the "virtuous wife" who diligently attends to the needs of her family and of many others (Proverbs 31). "She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy" (Proverbs 31:20). "And on her tongue is the law of kindness" (Proverbs 31:26). May our tongues be guided by the law of kindness!

### **B. The Fruit of the Spirit – Goodness**

Goodness is the sixth in the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23. It relates directly to morality. Goodness is virtue and holiness in action. It results in a life characterized by deeds motivated by righteousness and a desire to be a blessing. It's a moral characteristic of a Spirit-filled person. The Greek word translated "goodness," agathosune, is defined as "uprightness of heart and life." Agathosune is goodness for the benefit of others, not goodness simply for the sake of being virtuous.

Someone with agathosune will selflessly act on behalf of others. Confronting someone about a sin demonstrates goodness. So do giving to the poor, providing for one's children, visiting the sick, volunteering to clean up after a storm, and praying for an enemy. Expressions of goodness are as varied as the Spirit is creative.

Goodness is not a quality we can manufacture on our own, again it is God's nature Rom.2:4. James 1:17 says, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights." This certainly includes a life characterized by goodness. In letting the Holy Spirit control us, we are blessed with the fruit of goodness. As others see our good works, they will praise our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

**NEXT: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS & SELF-CONTROL**