

January 31, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Gal. 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.* (NIV)

The fifth fruit that we have, because of the Spirit living within us, is kindness! The Greek word is **chrestotes** which means *upright, gentleness, and goodness*. When I think of this characteristic, I'm immediately drawn to the LORD's persona. This is Who He is. He is good, and right, and gentle. King David put it this way in **Ps. 103:10-14** *He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust.* (NIV)

And, because this is Who He is towards us, He then wants us to show His kindness through our actions and our speech. What we say and do reflects who we are. What is on the inside will come out. **Luke 6:45** *A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.* (NIV)

When we are kind to each other, we are displaying the attitude of the LORD that He displays to us. He is not harsh or terrible, but instead He treats us out of His kindness towards us. No one could ever do for us what the LORD has done. He literally took all of our punishment for our sins upon Himself. He is so loving and kind towards us. It is this very kindness that He uses to show us our own sin and what we should do about it. I remember that my Grandpa used to ask me a question when I didn't know what I should do. He would ask, 'what do you think the LORD would do?' That question would serve us all well.

Dear LORD, thank You for being so very kind to us. We certainly don't deserve that, but You are kind and gentle and good. Please help us by Your Holy Spirit to show this same kindness to others. In Jesus Name, Amen