

CHIEF MINISTRIES

October 2023

A few housekeeping issues before we start. As you are all aware as of September 6, 2023, ALL mail must go through Dallas. So hopefully there won't be a delay in you receiving your newsletter. Please note that I print on both sides of the paper, so if you are not getting both sides on your tablets, or hard copy, I will need to know so it can be addressed with Dallas. Thank you as we transition into this new way of doing things.

This month we are continuing our journey on the fruit of the Spirit. Using the scripture reference of Galatians 5:22-23, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Last month we looked at love, joy, and peace. As we grow in our relationship with the Lord, we develop unselfish love, true joy, and lasting peace. While the fruit of the Holy Spirit is not necessary for salvation, these godly virtues are evidence of salvation and the genuine work of the Holy Spirit (Read Matthew 7:17).

This month we are going to look at Patience, Kindness, and Goodness.

There is not much said about patience these days. But, when it comes to receiving from God, it is just as important as faith. It will make the difference between success and failure for you. Patience undergirds and sustains faith until the result is manifest. In some translations, "forbearance" or "longsuffering" may be used instead of "patience." However, the essence of this characteristic is the ability to endure, remain calm in difficult situations, and exercise patience and self-control when facing challenges or waiting for something.

After you have meditated on the promises of God and have them in your spirit, patience will encourage you to hold steady. Patience is power. It has the courage to refuse the lie of satan that says the Word is not working for you. It knows that God's Word has never failed. Patience will not draw back in fear but will press forward in faith until you have the answer. When the results of your faith seem slow in coming, don't give up! Continue to put the Word first, with patience, and you will *surely* receive the promise of God!

According to the Bible, patience, as described in the context of the fruit of the Spirit, involves several key aspects: Here are a few with scripture references. There are more references available, but I encourage you to do your own deeper study and also look at different translations.

- **Endurance in Difficult Circumstances:** Patience involves the ability to endure difficult situations and suffering without losing faith or becoming easily discouraged. It means remaining steadfast in one's faith and trust in God even when facing adversity. James 1:2-4 (NIV) - *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance [patience]."*
- **Forbearing with Others:** Patience also relates to how we deal with other people. It means being slow to anger, quick to forgive, and willing to bear with the faults and shortcomings of others, showing grace and compassion. Ephesians 4:2 (NIV) - *"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."*
- **Waiting on God's Timing:** Biblical patience involves waiting for God's timing and trusting in His plan. It means not rushing ahead or trying to force one's own agenda but rather relying on God's wisdom and guidance. Psalm 27:14 (NIV) - *"Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."*

The Bible is clear that you'll go through different seasons in life. One season that God talks about over and over is the season of waiting. But you can trust that while you're waiting, God is working. A season of waiting doesn't mean that God has stopped working. In fact, he's taking you through that season because he's using the time to work in your circumstances for your good. The truth is, you're going to spend much of your life waiting. And so, if you don't figure out how to trust God while you're waiting, you'll spend a lot of your life not trusting God. God is never in a hurry; he's eternal! And as he works, he wants you to learn how to trust in him while you wait. You might be asking, "When, Lord? When is it going to happen?" And God's saying something like, "You can trust me with this."

It's human nature to say, "Don't wait! Get things as quickly as you can." It's how many cultures are wired, especially here in America. But it goes against God's blessing in your life—because God's blessing comes through times of waiting. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "[God] has set the right time for everything" (GNT).

There's a promise in the Bible that tells you God is working and *how* God is working. You need to claim it while you're in your time of waiting: "*I am the Lord, and when it is time, I will make these things happen quickly*" (Isaiah 60:22 NCV). That's how God worked when he sent Jesus into this world. The world waited thousands of years for him to come for the first time. And then he came at just the right moment. We've been waiting 2,000 years now for Jesus to come again. When will that happen? At just the right time—God's time. That's when he's going to return.

You can apply this same truth to your time of waiting. Whether it be for parole, that special someone, a job, a promotion, or whatever it is. Remember that a delay is not a denial. When you think God is saying, "No," he may just be saying, "Not yet. Will you keep trusting me through this?" Micah 7:7 says, "*I trust the Lord God to save me, and I will wait for him to answer my prayer*" (CEV).

That is the kind of faith that God blesses.

What have you been waiting for God to do in your life? What has been your response to the season of waiting? How have you seen God work in your life when you have had to trust his timing and not your own? What can you do to slow things down in your life so that you learn patience and trust?

What patience is not according to the Bible:

- **Impatience:** Impatience, as the opposite of patience, involves becoming easily frustrated, anxious, or demanding when things don't go as planned or as quickly as desired. The Bible encourages believers to avoid impatience and instead trust in God's timing. Psalm 37:7 (NIV) - "*Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*"
- **Retaliation:** Patience does not involve seeking revenge or retaliating against those who wrong us. Instead, it calls for responding with love, forgiveness, and grace, even in the face of mistreatment. Romans 12:19-21 (NIV) - "*Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*"

Patience is characterized by enduring trials, bearing with others in love, and waiting on God's timing while avoiding impatience, retaliation, and frustration. It is a virtue that reflects trust in God's sovereignty and a Christ-like attitude towards others.

Let's move on to Kindness:

As a result of more people being impatient, having short fuses, and everyone always being in a hurry – many people have lost the ability to treat others with kindness and respect. A kind word, a kind action to another person can really do wonders for them. When you really study the life of Jesus in the New Testament, you can really tell how kind He always was with other people in His dealings with them. Jesus is without question, the ultimate role model for all of us of someone who was fully walking and operating in all 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit. The quality of kindness will go

hand in hand with the quality of Love. Once you have love the quality of kindness will follow right along with it. It will then become much easier for you to be able to be kind to others once the love of God starts to flow more into you. You cannot help but be more kind to others if God's love is flowing through you. This is why the quality of love has to be the main quality that you really concentrate on getting more of from the Holy Spirit. Once the love of God starts to flow and operate through you to touch others, many of the other fruits of the Holy Spirit will then start to follow right after it in domino fashion.

Kindness, in the context of the fruit of the Spirit, refers to a quality of character that involves being benevolent, considerate, and compassionate toward others. It's about showing love and goodwill through our actions and words. Biblical kindness extends to both friends and enemies, demonstrating the love of Christ in all situations.

Here are a few additional scriptural references that highlight the importance of kindness:

- Ephesians 4:32 (NIV): *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*
- Colossians 3:12 (NIV): *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."*
- Proverbs 19:22 (NIV): *"What a person desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar."*
- Luke 6:35 (NIV): *"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."*

Kindness, as a fruit of the Spirit, is characterized by a genuine concern for the well-being of others, a willingness to help, and a commitment to treating others with respect and compassion, mirroring the love and kindness of Christ Himself. Kindness is a virtue and moral quality that involves showing compassion, benevolence, and goodwill toward others. It is a fundamental aspect of Christian character and is often emphasized as an essential part of living a life in accordance with God's teachings. Here's what kindness is according to the Bible:

- Compassion and Mercy: Kindness involves having a heart of compassion and mercy toward those in need. It means extending help and support to those who are suffering or going through difficulties. Luke 10:33-34 (NIV) - *"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him."*
- Acts of Love: Kindness is expressed through acts of love and selflessness. It involves treating others with respect and dignity, regardless of their social status or circumstances. Ephesians 5:2 (NIV) - *"and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."*
- Forgiveness: Kindness includes the willingness to forgive those who have wronged us and to extend grace and forgiveness, just as God has forgiven us through Christ. Colossians 3:13 (NIV) *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*
- Generosity: Kindness is also associated with generosity, sharing resources, and helping those in need, without expecting anything in return. Hebrews 13:16 (NIV) *"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*
- Words of Encouragement: Kindness extends to our words and interactions with others, using speech that builds up and encourages rather than tearing down. Proverbs 16:24 (NIV) *"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."*

What kindness is not according to the Bible:

- Hypocrisy: Kindness should not be an outward show or done for personal gain. It should come from a sincere heart and genuine concern for others, rather than seeking praise or recognition. Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV) *Jesus warns against doing acts of righteousness for the purpose of being seen by others.*
- Conditional: True kindness is not conditional on receiving something in return. It should be given freely and without expecting reciprocation. Luke 6:35 (NIV) *"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back."*

Kindness is characterized by compassion, acts of love, forgiveness, generosity, and encouraging words. It is a selfless and genuine concern for the well-being of others, rooted in the love and example of Christ. It should not be hypocritical or given with ulterior motives, nor should it be conditional on receiving something in return.

The last for this month is Goodness. Goodness is a moral and virtuous quality of character that involves doing what is right and honorable in the eyes of God and others. Here's what goodness is according to the Bible:

- Moral Excellence: Goodness involves living a life that aligns with moral and ethical principles. It means making choices and decisions that are characterized by righteousness, integrity, and honesty. Romans 12:9 (NIV) *"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."*
- Generosity and Kindness: Goodness includes being generous, compassionate, and kind-hearted toward others. It means actively seeking opportunities to do good deeds and show love to those in need. Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*
- Reflecting God's Nature: Goodness reflects the nature of God, who is inherently good. Believers are called to emulate God's goodness in their lives and actions. Psalm 34:8 (NIV) *"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."*
- Integrity and Righteousness: Goodness implies living with integrity and righteousness, even when faced with moral challenges or temptations. It means consistently choosing to do what is right in God's eyes. Proverbs 21:3 (NIV) *"To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice."*
- Love in Action: Goodness is not just a passive quality but involves actively demonstrating love and kindness through one's actions. It is love in action, showing compassion and care for others in tangible ways. 1 John 3:18 (NIV) *"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."*

What goodness is not according to the Bible:

- Hypocrisy: Goodness should not be a facade or a show for personal gain or recognition. It should be genuine and sincere, flowing from a heart committed to doing what is right. Matthew 23:28 (NIV) *"In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."*
- Self-Righteousness: Goodness should not lead to self-righteousness or a judgmental attitude toward others. Instead, it should be marked by humility and a recognition of one's own need for God's grace. Luke 18:9-14 (NIV) - The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector illustrates the danger of self-righteousness.

Goodness is a virtue characterized by moral excellence, generosity, kindness, integrity, and love in action. It reflects the nature of God and is a key aspect of living a Christ-like life. Goodness should be genuine and humble, avoiding hypocrisy and self-righteousness.

Here's a summary of patience, kindness, and gentleness as attributes within the Christian lifestyle: And yes, it is possible to do in prison, but it must start with the ones who KNOW, that would be you my brothers and sisters in Christ!

- 1. Patience:** Patience is the virtue of enduring difficult circumstances and dealing with others with calmness and tolerance. Patience involves:
 - **Enduring Trials:** Christians are called to patiently endure trials and tribulations, knowing that God is in control and that these experiences can lead to spiritual growth.
 - **Dealing with Others:** It means being patient with the shortcomings and mistakes of others, forgiving them as God has forgiven us.
 - **Trusting God's Timing:** Patience also involves trusting God's timing and not rushing into decisions but seeking His guidance and wisdom.
- 2. Kindness:** Kindness is the act of showing compassion, benevolence, and goodwill to others. Kindness involves:
 - **Acts of Love:** Demonstrating love in action by helping those in need, showing generosity, and being empathetic toward others.
 - **Forgiveness:** Being willing to forgive those who have wronged us, extending grace and forgiveness as God has forgiven us through Christ.
 - **Words of Encouragement:** Using words that build up and encourage others, rather than speaking harshly or critically.
- 3. Gentleness:** Gentleness is the quality of being humble, meek, and considerate in interactions with others. Gentleness involves:
 - **Humility:** Approaching others with humility, recognizing one's own limitations, and not thinking of oneself as superior.
 - **Meekness:** Responding to challenges and conflicts with a calm and controlled demeanor, avoiding anger and aggression.
 - **Compassion:** Being sensitive to the feelings and needs of others, and showing care and empathy, especially in times of distress.

These attributes are part of the fruit of the Spirit, and they reflect the character of Christ. We as Christians are encouraged to cultivate these qualities in our lives as we seek to live out our faith and follow the example of Jesus, who embodied these virtues during His earthly ministry.

So, this was intense this month and there was so much more that could have been included. I pray you will take this time and study further into these virtues and look deep within to see (honestly see) where you are at and where there are opportunities for growth in your character. This should be a personal reflection of your character, not the judgment of your brother. (Read Matthew 7:3-5).

Let's all work to be a better reflection of Jesus!

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

Christ's Heart In Every Felon



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