

5. Note which verse from each day's readings made the most impact on you:

- Day 36: \_\_\_\_\_
- Day 37: \_\_\_\_\_
- Day 38: \_\_\_\_\_
- Day 39: \_\_\_\_\_
- Day 40: \_\_\_\_\_
- Day 41: \_\_\_\_\_
- Day 42: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is one thing you learned from your readings, reflections, discussions and prayer this week?

7. What one thing do you most need to do to experience joy in all circumstances as you live each day?



## New Life Christian Ministries

Fruit of the Spirit Series—Daily Readings  
PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS

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# Week 6—Goodness Points to Ponder...

## Questions to think about or discuss

1. When was the first time you remember knowing the difference between right and wrong, or good and bad? Can you remember a specific situation that brought it to your attention?
2. Which of the themes for the week (the heading for each day’s reading) impacted you the most? Why?
3. Why do you think Jesus said there are none good except God alone? How does this “mesh” with the world’s view that we are basically good?
4. Who exhibits goodness most clearly in your circle of influence?

# Day 42

## Goodness Is the Fruit of a Life In God!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Psalms 31:19* <sup>19</sup>How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to your for protection, blessing them before the watching world.” NLT

*Ecclesiastes 6:3-4* <sup>3</sup>”If a man begets a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better than he—<sup>4</sup>for it comes in vanity and departs in darkness, and its name is covered with darkness.” NKJV

*Romans 14:17-19* <sup>17</sup>”For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or what we drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. <sup>19</sup>So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” NLT

***Write something you have learned about Goodness HERE:***

## *The Fruit of the Spirit is...*

*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.  
Against such things there is no law.*

*Galatians 5:22-23*

*Welcome again to this second “installment” of readings and studies in the Fruit of the Spirit! Many of you will already have completed the readings and studies relating to LOVE, JOY, and PEACE. Now we move to PATIENCE, KINDNESS, and GOODNESS. As you continue the journey of discovering how the Fruit of the Spirit “grows” in our lives, you will once again have the opportunity each day to dig into God’s word, as you read and reflect on specific Scriptures dealing with a particular aspect of the fruit each day for a week. The Scriptures for each day have been grouped by categories, so you will be able to refer back to them in the future, and find not only a verse that teaches about “patience” for example, but also a verse that teaches about “Patience in Suffering.” In this way, the Fruit of the Spirit booklets (There will be one for every three aspects of the Fruit of the Spirit!) will serve as a reference guide to the Fruit of the Spirit! **At the end of each week’s readings there are “Points to Ponder” pages. It will be most helpful if you look at those pages DAILY rather than waiting until the end of the week to review them.***

*As we move to PATIENCE, KINDNESS and GOODNESS, I want to add a more personal comment about PATIENCE. Patience has always been the greatest challenge in my life when it comes to the Fruit of the Spirit. While each of the nine aspects of the Fruit of the Spirit is connected to the others, for me, patience has proven more difficult to live each day than the rest. Over the past several weeks, the circumstances of the Marshall family have been particularly effective in “testing” patience. As first the engine on our “good car” blew up, and then, much more importantly, Nancy underwent major surgery, our lives have been thrown out of their “normal” patterns. Through this time two things have made patience much more attainable: 1) an acute awareness of God’s presence through the Holy Spirit, and 2) the practical love and presence of our New Life family. I have been reminded over and over again through this time that the Fruit of the Spirit is GIVEN by the Holy Spirit in our lives, but many times it is EXPERIENCED most clearly as we live out that fruit with one another. Thanks to each of you who has prayed and continues to pray for us during this time, and for the many ways you have been and are being the CHURCH of Jesus Christ, and exhibiting the Fruit of the Spirit in your lives! God’s blessings to you as you continue on this journey of growing the Fruit of the Spirit in your life!*

*Grace and peace, Pastor Chris*

# Week 4-PATIENCE

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# Day 41

## Goodness Comes from God's Presence!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now ...*

*Psalms 23:6* "Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever." NLT

*Psalms 25:6-7* "Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and lovingkindness. For they are from of old. <sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions, According to Your mercy remember me. For Your goodness' sake, O LORD." NKJV

*Galatians 5:22-23* <sup>22</sup>"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self control. There is no law against such things!" NLT

*Since God chose you to be the  
 holy people he loves, you must  
 clothe yourselves with  
 tenderhearted mercy, kindness,  
 humility, gentleness and  
 patience."*

*Colossians 3:12 NLT*

Psalms 23 is one of the best known Scriptures in all of the Bible, and yet in many of the older translations we miss out on the reality that God's goodness PURSUES us all the days of our lives. The King James and many other translations read, "Surely your goodness and mercy will FOLLOW me..." (emphasis added.) But the original Hebrew text, indeed, means PURSUES. God will not give up on us, even when we give up on Him. As we go about our days there are times when we don't "feel" God's presence. In such times we need only remember that God's goodness is PURSUING us. He never leaves us nor forsakes us. Remember that feelings are fickle, and often Satan uses our feelings to do what he does best—lie to us about God's constant love and abiding presence in our lives. Friends, family, brothers in sisters in the Lord may all fail us, but God's steadfast love, faithfulness and goodness endure FOREVER! What an amazing truth, and what an amazing promise!

# Day 40

## Not All Respond To God's Goodness!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Nehemiah 9:34-35* <sup>34</sup>Our kings, leaders, priests, and ancestors did not obey your Law or listen to the warnings in your commands and laws. <sup>35</sup>Even while they had their own kingdom, they did not serve you, though you showered your goodness on them. You gave them a large, fertile land, but they refused to turn from their wickedness." NLT

*Psalms 33:5* <sup>5</sup>He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD." NKJV

*Hebrews 6:4-6* <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come—<sup>6</sup>and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame." NLT\*

\* Some have seen Hebrews 6:4-6 as “proof” that it is possible for a believer to lose his or her salvation, that we can actually turn away from God’s goodness, and so it seems at a cursory reading. But remember that Jesus said that any who come to Him, He will NEVER cast out. For a person to “...have experience the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit...” and then to turn away is proof that the evil in the human heart can resist even the presence of God, but Jesus’ blood shed on the cross is EFFECTIVE entirely. That’s why Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 3, that if the foundation of our lives is Jesus, we may build on that foundation with worthless materials, but we will still stand before the judgment of Jesus!

# Day 22

## The Power of Patience!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Proverbs 16:32* NLT <sup>32</sup>“Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city.” NLT

*Proverbs 25:15* <sup>15</sup>“Patience can persuade a prince, and soft speech can break bones.” NLT

*Ecclesiastes 7:8* <sup>8</sup>“Finishing is better than starting. Patience is better than pride.” NLT

*Romans 15:5* <sup>5</sup>“May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ.” NLT

*1 Thessalonians 1:3* <sup>3</sup>“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.” KJV

*2 Thessalonians 1:4* <sup>4</sup>“So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure.” KJV

*Revelations 2:2* <sup>2</sup>“I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars.” NLT

***“Our patience will achieve more than our force.”--  
Edmund Burke***

# Day 23

## Testing God's Patience

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Psalms 73:14* <sup>14</sup>“Again and again they tested God’s patience and provoked the Holy One of Israel.” NLT

*Psalms 95:9* <sup>9</sup>“For there your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw everything I did.” NLT

*Psalms 106:14* <sup>14</sup>“In the wilderness their desires ran wild, testing God’s patience in that dry wasteland.” NLT

*Isaiah 7:13* <sup>13</sup>“Then Isaiah said, ‘Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn’t it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well?’” NLT

*Micah 2:7* <sup>7</sup>“Should you talk that way, O family of Israel? Will the LORD’S Spirit have patience with such behavior?” NLT

*Hebrews 3:9* <sup>9</sup>“There your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years.” NLT

***“Patience serves as a protection against wrongs as clothes do against cold. For if you put on more clothes as the cold increases, it will have no power to hurt you. So in like manner you must grow in patience when you meet with great wrongs, and they will be powerless to vex your mind.”-- Leonardo da Vinci***

# Day 39

## God Is Goodness!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Exodus 33:19* <sup>19</sup>“The LORD replied, ‘I will make my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose.’” NLT

*2 Chronicles 6:41* <sup>41</sup>“And now arise, O LORD God, and enter your resting place, along with the Ark, the symbol of your power. May your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation; may your loyal servants rejoice in your goodness.” NLT

*Acts 14:16-17* <sup>16</sup>“In the past he permitted all the nations to go their own ways, <sup>17</sup>but he never left them without evidence of himself and his goodness. For instance, he sends you rain and good crops and gives you food and joyful hearts.” NLT

***Of all virtues and dignities of the mind, goodness is the greatest, being the character of the Deity; and without it, man is a busy, mischievous, wretched thing. -- Francis Bacon***

***God is summum bonum, the highest good.***  
– Arthur Pink

# Day 38

## God's Goodness to Israel!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Isaiah 63:7* <sup>7</sup>"I will tell of the LORD's unfailing love. I will praise the LORD for all he has done. I will rejoice in his great goodness to Israel, which he has granted according to His mercy and love." NLT

*Jeremiah 31:14* <sup>14</sup>"I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance. And My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the LORD." NKJV

*Hosea 3:4-5* <sup>4</sup>"This shows that Israel will go a long time without a king or prince, and without sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even idols! <sup>5</sup>But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the LORD their God and to David's descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the LORD and of his goodness." NLT

***Goodness is the only investment that never fails. -  
Henry David Thoreau***

***Every germ of goodness will at last struggle into  
bloom and fruition, true success follows every right  
step. - Orison Swett Marden***

# PATIENCE 101

The Greeks used a number of different words for patience or long-suffering. The most common are listed below:

**Kartereo “be strong, steadfast, persevere,”** This verb is not used often, but when it is the meaning is to endure hardship or remain constant in the Lord's cause. The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 13:6 that as servants of God, rulers are constantly engaged in their duties. Thus, this usage may not be translated as patience in our English translations, but the idea of enduring for God puts *kartereo* in the class of words translated as patience.

## **Makrothymia “patience, longsuffering”**

In the common Greek of the New Testament era, *makrothymia* was a purely and typically human virtue. It was the prolonged restraint of thymos—anger or agitation. It could even mean passive resignation. In biblical usage the word's meaning becomes much different. As it is used in the New Testament, *makrothymia* means forbearance or patience, and it is a characteristic both of God and of the person who is united with Jesus Christ. Here we see how a word's meaning may be transformed when used to describe a trait of God and of those who follow Him in the power of the Holy Spirit. While anyone may display *makrothymia*—a prolonged restraint against anger or agitation as a personal discipline, only those who belong to Jesus may display it as a godly reality in all circumstances.

## **Upomeneo or Upomone “be patient, persevere, endure.**

This word literally means to “remain under”. Once again the word's usage in the New Testament differs from the common Greek of the day. Here it means to remain under God's authority, and thus to be able to be patient, to persevere or to endure hardships others would not be able to endure.

In each case, the Greek words, which translate to patience, longsuffering, endurance and steadfastness indicated God's presence and power in order to carry out in daily life. May we live in that power and thus demonstrate patience in daily living!

# Day 24

## Patience: Among the Godly Virtues!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Galatians 5:22-23* <sup>22</sup>But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things” NLT

*Colossians 3:12* <sup>12</sup>“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” NLT

*1 Timothy 6:11* <sup>11</sup>“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.” KJV

*2 Corinthians 6:6* <sup>6</sup>“We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love.” NLT

*2 Peter 1:5-7* <sup>5</sup>“In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.” NLT

***“Patience is bitter, but it’s fruit is sweet.”--***

***Lida Clarkson***

# Day 37

## God’s Goodness Protects Us!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Psalms 119:38-40* <sup>38</sup>Reassure me of your promise, made to those who fear you. <sup>39</sup>Help me abandon my shameful ways; for your regulations are good. <sup>40</sup>I long to obey your commandments! Renew my life within your goodness.” NLT

*Psalms 145:5-8* <sup>5</sup>“I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. <sup>6</sup>Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness. <sup>7</sup>Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with you about your righteousness. <sup>8</sup>The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to angry and filled with unfailing love.” NLT

*Acts 27:21-26* <sup>21</sup>“No one had eaten in a long time. Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, ‘Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left Crete. You would have avoided all this damage and loss. <sup>22</sup>But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. <sup>23</sup>Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, <sup>24</sup>and he said, ‘Don’t be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What’s more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.’ <sup>25</sup>So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said, <sup>26</sup>But we will be shipwrecked on an island.” NLT

***Goodness does not consist in greatness, but greatness in goodness. - Athenaeus***

# GOODNESS

The Greek word most often translated goodness, as we saw in last week's reading on Kindness is "agathosune," which literally means "good-with" or "with good." There are two Greek words for our English adjective "good." They are "agathos" and "kalos" Agathos is typically used to describe good actions, whereas kalos usually describes beauty. As we consider goodness, it is important for us to remember that Jesus said that goodness is a trait that is characteristic of God alone. When the rich young man came to Jesus, he called Jesus "Good Teacher." Jesus asked, "Why do you call me good? There is none good except for God alone." In saying this Jesus pointed out that the rich young man either rightly understood that Jesus is God, or mistakenly attributed goodness to someone undeserving of it.

As human beings, goodness along with all the other aspects of the Fruit of the Spirit is beyond our grasp apart from the indwelling presence and power of God in our lives through the Holy Spirit. If we are to exhibit goodness, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit over and over again, as we are admonished in Ephesians 5:18. Thus, we see time and again that the Fruit of the Spirit belongs only to those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and are living in the Spirit. As we go from day to day, the most important reality is not what situation or circumstance we will face, but whether we are full of the Holy Spirit. As we wake each day, and throughout the day, we must call on God to control our lives. We already know what happens when we control them, and as the saying goes, "It isn't pretty."

Thank God that He decided before the foundation of the universe that He would extend His loving kindness, goodness and mercy to us, first directly in the lives of Adam and Eve; then through the covenants He made with Noah, Abraham, Moses and David; and finally in all His fullness through Jesus! May God's goodness be evident in our thoughts, words and actions as we put Jesus first today and every day God gives us!

# Day 25

## Paul's Patience: A Sign of Apostleship!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now ...*

*Romans 15:4* <sup>4b</sup>For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." KJV

*1 Corinthians 4:12-13* <sup>12</sup>“We work wearily with our own hands to earn a living. We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us. <sup>13</sup>We appeal gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash—right up to the present moment.” NLT

*2 Corinthians 6:4-6* <sup>4b</sup>“But in all things approving ourselves as ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, <sup>5</sup>In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; <sup>6</sup>By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned.” KJV

*2 Corinthians 12:12* <sup>12</sup>“Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.” KJV

*1 Timothy 1:16* <sup>16</sup>“But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.” NLT

*2 Timothy 3:10* <sup>10</sup>“But you, Timothy certainly know what I tech, and how I live, and what my purpose is. You know my faith, my patience, my love and my endurance.” NLT

# Day 26

## Patience in the Lord's Work!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Colossians 1:11* <sup>11</sup>“We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need.” NLT

*1 Thessalonians 5:14* <sup>14</sup>“Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.” NLT

*2 Timothy 2:24* <sup>24</sup>“A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.” NLT

*2 Timothy 4:2* <sup>2</sup>“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” NIV

*Hebrews 6:12* <sup>12</sup>“We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.” NIV

*Hebrews 12:1* <sup>1</sup>“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” KJV

*James 5:7* <sup>7</sup>“Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen.” NLT

# Day 36

## God's Goodness Is In His People!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Psalms 27:13* <sup>13</sup>“Yet I am confident I will see the LORD's goodness while I am here in the land of the living.” NLT

*Romans 15:14-16* <sup>14</sup>“I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them. <sup>15</sup>Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by God's grace, <sup>16</sup>I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made by the Holy Spirit.” NLT

*1 Peter 2:9* <sup>9</sup>“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.” NLT

***Seek always to do some good, somewhere. Every man has to seek in his own way to realize his true worth. You must give some time to your fellow man. For remember, you don't live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here too. -- Albert Schweitzer***

***I have always recognized that the object of business is to make money in an honorable manner. I have endeavored to remember that the object of life is to do good.***

***--Peter Cooper***

# Week 6-GOODNESS

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# Day 27 God’s Patience in Our Salvation!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Romans 2:4* <sup>4</sup>“Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?” NLT

*Romans 9:22* <sup>22</sup>“What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction?” NIV

*2 Peter 3: 9* <sup>9</sup>“The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” NLT

*2 Peter 3:15* <sup>15</sup>“And remember, the Lord’s patience gives people time to be saved.” NLT

***“Forgive, forget. Bear with the faults of others as you would have them bear with yours. Be patient and understanding. Life is too short to be vengeful or malicious.”-- Phillips Brooks***

***“Never think that God's delays are God's denials. Hold on; hold fast; hold out. Patience is genius.”-- George-Louis Leclerc de Buffon***

***“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”***  
***1 Peter 2:9 NLT***

# Day 28

## Patience in Suffering!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Micah 7:9* <sup>9</sup>“I will be patient as the LORD punishes me, for I have sinned against him. But after that, he will take up my case and give me justice for all I have suffered from my enemies. The LORD will bring me into the light, and I will see His righteousness.” NLT

*Romans 5:3-5* <sup>3</sup>“And not only so, but we glory in tribulation also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; <sup>4</sup>and patience, experience; and experience, hope: <sup>5</sup>And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” KJV

*James 1:3-4* <sup>3</sup>“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup>But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” KJV

*1 Peter 2:20* <sup>20</sup>“Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.” NLT

*Revelation 1:9* <sup>9</sup>“I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God’s Kingdom and in patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus.” NLT

***“Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.” --  
Jean Jacques Rousseau***

5. Note which verse from each day’s readings made the most impact on you:

Day 29: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 30: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 31: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 32: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 33: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 34: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 35: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is one thing you learned from your readings, reflections, discussions and prayer this week?

7. What one thing do you most need to do to experience joy in all circumstances as you live each day?

# Week 5-KINDNESS

## Points to Ponder...

### Questions to think about or discuss

1. Name some “random acts of kindness” that you have done for others. That others have done for you!
2. Which of the themes for the week (the heading for each day’s reading) impacted you the most? Why?
3. Name some acts of kindness that are obviously motivated by a love for Jesus, and some that can be carried out by anyone:
4. The reading on page 14 states that kindness as it’s used in Scripture always springs from God’s love. What does that mean to you?

# Week 4-PATIENCE

## Points to Ponder...

### Questions to think about or discuss

1. When did you become aware that being “patient” was important or necessary? Who is the most patient person you know?
2. After reading “PATIENCE 101” what
3. Which of the Scriptures from each day made the greatest impact on you?  
Day 22: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 23: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 24: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 25: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 26: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 27: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day 28: \_\_\_\_\_

4. When is it the easiest for you to be patient? When is it the most challenging? Why?

5. Does the word “patience” or “long-suffering” have the greater impact for you in translating the Greek word “makrothymia”? Why?

6. What is one new thing that you learned this week?

7. What one thing do you most need to do to see the Fruit of PATIENCE in your daily life?

# Day 35

## God’s Kindness Means Our Salvation!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Romans 2:4* <sup>4a</sup>Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?” NLT

*Romans 3:23-24* <sup>23</sup>For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. <sup>24</sup>Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” NLT

*Ephesians 1:6-7* <sup>6</sup>”So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear son. <sup>7</sup>He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins. <sup>8</sup>He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.” NLT

*Ephesians 2:7* <sup>7</sup>”So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.” NLT

*2 Corinthians 6:1-2* <sup>1</sup>As God’s partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God’s kindness and then ignore it. <sup>2</sup>For God says, ‘At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.’ Indeed the ‘right time’ is now. Today is the day of salvation.” NLT

# Day 34

## God's Kindness May Be Abused by Us!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*2 Chronicles 32:25* <sup>25</sup>But Hezekiah did not respond appropriately to the kindness shown him, and he became proud. So the LORD's anger came against him and against Judah and Jerusalem." NLT

*Hosea 4:1* <sup>1</sup>"Hear the word of the LORD, O people of Israel! The LORD has brought charges against you, saying: 'There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land.'" NLT

*Hosea 11:3-4* <sup>3</sup>"I myself taught Israel how to walk, leading him along by the hand. But he doesn't know or even care that it was I who took care of him. <sup>4</sup>I led Israel along with my ropes of kindness and love. I lifted the yoke from his neck, and I myself stooped to feed him." NLT

*Psalms 141:4-5* <sup>4</sup>"Don't let me drift toward evil or take part in acts of wickedness. Don't let me share in the delicacies of those who do wrong. <sup>5</sup>Let the godly strike me! It will be a kindness! If they correct me, it is soothing medicine. Don't let me refuse it." NLT

*Romans 11:22* <sup>22</sup>"Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off." NLT

***"You may be sorry that you spoke, sorry you stayed or went, sorry you won or lost, sorry so much was spent. But as you go through life, you'll find- you're never sorry you were kind."***

***-- Herb Prochnow***

# Week 5-KINDNESS

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***<sup>8</sup> If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.***

***Romans 12:8 NLT***

# Day 29

## God's Kindness Is Evident to All!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Genesis 19:18-19* <sup>18</sup>Oh no, my lord!" Lot begged. <sup>19</sup>You have been gracious to me and saved my life, and you have shown such great kindness. But I cannot go to the mountains. Disaster would catch up to me there, and I would soon die." NLT

*Psalms 145:17* <sup>17</sup>The LORD is righteous in everything He does; He is filled with kindness." NLT

*Isaiah 26:9-10* <sup>9</sup>All night long I search for you; in the morning I earnestly seek for God. For only when you come to judge the earth will people learn what is right. <sup>10</sup>Your kindness to the wicked does not make them do good. Although others do right, the wicked keep doing wrong and take no notice of the LORD's majesty." NLT

*Zephaniah 2:7* <sup>7</sup>The remnant of the tribe of Judah will pasture there. They will rest at night in the abandoned houses of Ashkelon. For the LORD their God will visit his people in kindness and restore their prosperity again." NLT

*Romans 11:5-6* <sup>5</sup>It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God's grace—his undeserved kindness in choosing them. <sup>6</sup>And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works, For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved." NLT

***"Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom."***

***-- Theodore Isaac Rubin***

# Day 33

## Kindness Brings God's Blessing!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*1 Samuel 15:6* <sup>6</sup>Saul sent this warning to the Kenites, 'Move away from where the Amalekites live, or you will die with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up from Egypt.' So the Kenites packed up and left." NLT

*Ruth 1:8* <sup>8</sup>But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me.'" NLT

*Ruth 2:10* <sup>10</sup>Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. 'What have I done to deserve such kindness?' she asked. 'I am only a foreigner.'" NLT

*Ruth 2:20* <sup>20</sup>'May the LORD bless him!' Naomi told her daughter-in-law. 'He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers.'" NLT

*Proverbs 11:17* <sup>17</sup>Your kindness will reward you, but your cruelty will destroy you." NLT

*Proverbs 31:26* <sup>26</sup>When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness." NLT

***"Kindness is never wasted. If it has no effect on the recipient, at least it benefits the bestower."***

***-- S. H. Simmons***

# Day 32

## God's Kindness Brings Transformation!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*2 Corinthians 8:1-2* <sup>1</sup>Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup>They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity." NLT

*2 Corinthians 10:1-2* <sup>1</sup>Now, I, Paul, appeal to you with the gentleness and kindness of Christ—though I realize you think I am timid in person and bold only when I write from far away. <sup>2</sup>Well, I am begging you now so that when I come I won't have to be bold with those who think we act from human motives." NLT

*2 Timothy 1:16-18* <sup>16</sup>May the Lord show special kindness to Onesiphorus and all his family because he often visited and encouraged me. He was never ashamed of me because I was in chains. <sup>17</sup>When he came to Rome, he searched everywhere until he found me. <sup>18</sup>May the Lord show him special kindness on the day of Christ's return. And you know very well how helpful he was in Ephesus." NLT

*1 Peter 5:10-11* <sup>10</sup>In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. <sup>11</sup>All power to him forever! Amen." NLT

*1 Peter 2:1-3* <sup>1</sup>So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy and all unkind speech. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, <sup>3</sup>now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness." NLT

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# Day 30

## Kindness to Others Is a Sign of God's Presence!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*1 Samuel 24:19* <sup>19</sup>Who else would let his enemy get away when he had him in his power? May the LORD reward you well for the kindness you have shown me today." NLT (King Saul to David, when David had the opportunity to kill Saul and did not.)

*2 Samuel 9:1* <sup>1</sup>One day David asked, "Is anyone in Saul's family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" NLT

*2 Samuel 9:7-8* <sup>7</sup>"Don't be afraid!" David said. "I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather, Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king's table!" <sup>8</sup>Mephibosheth bowed respectfully and exclaimed, "Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?" NLT

*Philippians 4:15-17* <sup>15</sup>As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. <sup>16</sup>Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent me help more than once. <sup>17</sup>I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness." NLT

*Philemon 1:7* <sup>7</sup>Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people." NLT

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# KINDNESS

A quick search of the word kindness in Greek results in one primary word: krestotes. It is krestotes which we find in the list of the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. The interesting thing about krestotes is that it can also mean goodness. Since goodness is the next aspect of the fruit of the Spirit, it may well be that the Apostle Paul placed the two side by side on purpose. The word used for goodness in Galatians 5:22-23 is agathosune, which literally means “good-with”, or “with-good.” The kindness of which Paul speaks always derives from the love of God. It is for that reason that the New Living Translation often translates the word grace as God’s “unmerited kindness” to us.

Kindness is a characteristic that defines us as followers of Jesus. In fact, many secular writers have recognized that kindness is one of the supreme everyday virtues. In modern times many have advocated committing “random acts of kindness,” and such activity was the basis for the popular movie “Pay it Forward.” Each of us recognizes that kindness may be carried out not only to one another, but also to the lower creatures. In fact, in my own life, I can tell whether my kindness “tank” is full or empty based on how I treat our family dog, Champ. The writer of Proverbs picked up on this truth in Proverbs 12:10: ***10 The godly care for their animals, but the wicked are always cruel.***

Kindness, as an aspect of the Fruit of the Spirit, is also practiced by the “godly,” that is by those who have given control of our lives to the Holy Spirit. Human kindness has as its motivation a desire to receive similar treatment. Godly kindness has as its motivation a desire to reflect God’s love and presence in us to others. As we go about each day, committing random acts of kindness may be a way of showing the “best” in human personality, which is good, or it may be a way of showing God’s love and presence to others, which is far better! As you go about this week, why not take the kindness “test,” by seeing how you are treating the lower creatures around you, as well as other people, and then considering WHY you are acting that way. God’s best comes from His love in us, working through us.

# Day 31

## Kindness: A Trait of Godly People!

*Think about, discuss or pray about the verse that relates most to your life right now...*

*Proverbs 3:3-4* <sup>3</sup>“Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. <sup>4</sup>Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.” NLT

*Zechariah 7:8-10* <sup>8</sup>“Ten this message came to Zechariah from the LORD: <sup>9</sup>“This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: Judge fairly, and show mercy and kindness to one another. <sup>10</sup>Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. And do not scheme against each other.” NLT

*Romans 12:8* <sup>8</sup>“If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.” NLT

*2 Corinthians 6:6* <sup>6</sup>“We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love.” NLT

*Galatians 5:22-23* <sup>22</sup>“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things.” NLT

*Colossians 3:12* <sup>12</sup>“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” NLT