

Crossroad of Truth

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Last Time

Fruit of the Spirit

- Joy
- Peace

What Is The Fruit of the Spirit?

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is

- love, joy, peace,
- longsuffering, kindness, goodness,
- faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

Me + God

Me + Others

Me

Joy

The Spirit produces joy in these ways:

1. Joy of Deliverance
2. Joy of Salvation
3. Joy of Spiritual Maturity
4. Joy of God's Presence

Peace

Three Christian brothers met one day
To speak of things divine;
They had so much of Christ to say,
With joy their faces shine.

The first one said, 'My brothers dear,
By virtue of Christ's blood,
My heart retains no guilty fear,
I now have "**Peace** with God".'
(Romans 5:1)

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The second brother answered bold,
'You lag on heaven's road;
I grasp the truth with higher hold,
I have the "**peace** of God".'
(Philippians 4:7)

Phil 4:7

and the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Peace

The third dear brother drew up tall;
He laughed and scarce could cease:

‘My brothers dear, I beat you all—
I have the "God of **Peace**." (1Thess
5:23)



1 Thess 5:23

Now may the God of **peace**
Himself sanctify you
completely; and may your
whole spirit, soul, and body
be preserved blameless at
the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

They all had peace, they all were
right,
But peace in diverse measure;
The third had scaled the highest
height
Of Heaven's exalted pleasure.

—T. Baird

Today

Fruit of the Spirit

- Longsuffering
- Kindness
- Goodness

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Longsuffering¹

Makrothumia, is a compound word formed by

- **makros** = long, distant, far off, large + **thumos** = temper, passion, emotion
- *Makrothumia* = long-tempered*

It describes a state of emotional calm or quietness in the face of insult, misfortune, or unfavorable situations with people, and endures and persists until the very end.

The distinguishing characteristic of true “patience” is the ability to restrain one's feeling under the oversights and wrongs afflicted by others without the need to retaliate.

When we are patient, we allow God to work in our hearts and in our relationships. We lay down our schedule and trust in God's.

What Does the Bible Say About “Longsuffering”

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love **suffers long** *and* is kind...

Romans 5:4

knowing that tribulation produces **perseverance**; **4** and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

James 1:19-20-19

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, **slow** to speak, **slow** to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God

Colossians 3:12

12 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, **longsuffering**;

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Kindness²

The Greek word for “kindness” is *chrēstotēs*. It is kindness of heart and action referring to providing to a person’s needs.

It is a gracious attitude and describes the quality of being helpful and beneficial.

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.

Kindness is

- God's beneficial provision that meets the need of sinful person.
- Reflects the tender concern of God, providing for the helpless.
- God initiating our salvation.
- His kindness continuing throughout eternity

Kindness

Jesus taught us to "love your enemies, and do good and lend, expecting nothing in return and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is **kind** to unthankful and evil." (Luke 6:35)

On multiple occasions, the act of kindness led Jesus to stop what He was doing and help others in need (Mark 6:34; Mark 7:29; Mark 10:46-52).

Kindness leads the Good Shepherd to rescue us when we stray (Luke 15:3-7):

3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? **5** And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6** And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' **7** I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

Grace

The word translated "grace" in the New Testament comes from the Greek word charis, which means "favor, blessing, or **kindness**."

Grace includes kindness and compassion, but also carries the idea of bestowing a gift or favor.

To fully understand grace, we need to consider who we were without Christ and who we become with Christ:

- We were born in sin (Psalm 51:5),
- We were guilty of breaking God's holy laws (Romans 3:9–20, 23; 1 John 1:8–10).
- We were enemies of God (Romans 5:6, 10; 8:7; Colossians 1:21), deserving of death (Romans 6:23a).
- We were unrighteous (Romans 3:10) and without means of justifying ourselves (Romans 3:20).
- Spiritually, we were destitute, blind, unclean, and dead. Our souls were in peril of everlasting punishment.

Grace

But then came **grace**. God extended His favor to us.

Grace is

- what saves us (Ephesians 2:8).
- the essence of the gospel (Acts 20:24).
- gives us victory over sin (James 4:6).
- gives us “eternal encouragement and good hope” (2 Thessalonians 2:16).

Two types of grace:

1. Common grace refers to the blessings that God bestows on all of mankind regardless of their spiritual standing before Him
2. Saving grace is the special blessing that God sovereignly gives, unearned and undeserved, to those who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, for their regeneration (“born again”) and sanctification (renewal in Christ).

Grace Is A Free Gift By God ³

Anyone who has ever received a gift understands that a gift is much different from a loan, which requires paying back of.

The Bible teaches that grace is a gift

1. Where nothing is owed in return
2. There's no cost to the receiver, while the giver who bears the cost
3. Once we receive a gift, then it is permanently ours
4. That the giver willingly loses something to benefit another (2 Corinthians 8:9)
5. That is completely unmerited. (Romans 4:4; 11:5–6; 2 Timothy 1:9–10)

We don't deserve God's saving grace.

Romans 5:8–10, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. . . . While we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son.”

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Goodness ⁴

Aathosune is defined as "uprightness of heart and life."

From **agathos** = benevolent, profitable, benefiting others.

Goodness is one that relates directly to morality. Goodness is virtue and holiness in action. Goodness then describes behavior that benefits others instead of self.

It results in a life characterized by deeds motivated by righteousness and a desire to be a blessing.

Our circumstances are not an accurate reflection of God's goodness. Whether life is good or bad, God's goodness, rooted in His character, is the same. Most of us often mistakenly equate the goodness of God with the "rightness" of our circumstances.

What the Bible Say About “Goodness”

James 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights."

Matthew 5:16

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Galatians 6:10

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2 Thessalonians 1:11

11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power,

God's Goodness

Jesus declared, “No one is good—except God alone” (Luke 18:19).

1 John 1:5 tells us that “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.” To say that God is good means that God always acts consistent to what is right, true, and good.

Goodness is part of God's nature, and He cannot contradict His nature. He cannot do anything that is unholy or unrighteous.

God is the standard of all that is good.

The fact that God is good means that He has no evil in Him, His intentions and motivations are always good, He always does what is right, and the outcome of His plan is always good (see Genesis 50:20)

Everything that God made was originally good: “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31; cf. 1 Timothy 4:4).

God's Goodness

God did not create evil (Habakkuk 1:13; 1 John 1:5). Evil is the *absence* of goodness; it is whatever God is not.

It is never the will of our good God for us to sin: “God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone” (James 1:13).

Ultimately, God's goodness is seen in His plan to redeem us from sin.

The gospel is “good news.”

In His goodness, God sent His Son to become the perfect and blameless sacrifice so we could be forgiven of our sins. God does not want “anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9), and it is “the goodness of God [that] leadeth thee to repentance” (Romans 2:4).

God's Goodness

Because God is good, we know for certain that we can

- believe what He says to us.
- have confidence in waiting for His rescue.
- entrust our future to His care.
- rely on His wisdom and guidance.
- know that what He asks us to do is always the best for us.

God's Goodness

Do you struggle to believe God is good? Then try this exercise over the next few days:

1. **What** must I do to understand God's goodness? Psalm 86:5, 34:8
2. **Who** can expect to be the beneficiary of God's goodness? Psalm 31:19
3. **How** long can we expect to bask in His goodness? Psalm 23:6
4. **When** will the Lord's goodness stop? Psalm 100:5

Ask God to lead you into all the truth about His goodness, surrendering yourself to the truth He reveals (Ps 119:68).

Ultimately, the goodness of God only requires two things: trust and obey in Him.