

**B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Goodness**

Only \_\_\_\_\_ is truly good (Ps. 34:8; Mk.10:38). We are not good and can do no good without God. In fact, if you take “\_\_\_\_\_” out of “\_\_\_\_\_” you end up with a big \_\_\_\_\_. Naturally you and I are sinful and evil, but God wants to do something supernatural in and through us, He wants to make us good! We must keep our eyes on the goodness of \_\_\_\_\_ as we deal with others.

**C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Goodness**

Someone has said, “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can!”

In Acts 11, we are told that \_\_\_\_\_ was “a good man and full of the Holy Ghost.” The reason he was a “good man” was because he was “full of the Holy Ghost.” Goodness is not primarily a matter of what you \_\_\_\_\_, or what you \_\_\_\_\_, but what you \_\_\_\_\_. Goodness is not a deed you do, it is the fruit you bear through the Holy Spirit’s power. Because the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness. Let’s ask God to make us good men and women full of the Holy Ghost!

“We need the kind of life that has such integrity in relation to Christ that those around us who are comfortable in their apathy, unconcern, and insensitivity will be \_\_\_\_\_ by our very presence, and those who are afflicted by the pains and problems of life will be \_\_\_\_\_ by our same presence” (Dunnam).

**CONCLUSION**

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness.... Does your life evidence that the Spirit of God is in control? Is the fruit of longsuffering growing in you? How do you respond to trying problems and people? Do you actively look for ways to be kind to others? Remember, kindness is treating others the way God has treated you. How about goodness? To evidence these qualities of the Spirit’s fruit you must yield to His control. So often we try and try to work up these characteristics in our lives to no avail. The way to spiritual fruit bearing is not through \_\_\_\_\_ (self-effort) it is through \_\_\_\_\_ (Spirit’s power). Keep Galatians 5:16 foremost in your thinking, “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”



**LESSON 3:** “The Fruit of Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness”

**TEXT:** Galatians 5:22-23

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**INTRODUCTION**

We have learned that the key to spiritual victory within and spiritual fruit without is through “walking in the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16). To cultivate this fruit we must allow the Spirit of God to take the Word of God to make us more like the Son of God. There are the activities of \_\_\_\_\_ our minds with Scripture and \_\_\_\_\_ in obedience to God’s truth, but there is also \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit of God to guide and direct us by His Word. The fruit of the Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_. You recall that Paul lists for us 9 characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). We are dissecting and examining this singular fruit segment by segment. Last week we looked at the first trio that harmonize sweetly in our upward relationship with God (love, joy, and peace). Today we will continue by focusing on the second set of three (long-suffering, gentleness, and goodness). These have to do with our outward relationships with others.

In his commentary on Galatians, Timothy Keller identifies four descriptors about how the Spirit works in producing spiritual fruit.

1. Spiritual fruit is \_\_\_\_\_ in its growth.
2. Spiritual fruit is \_\_\_\_\_ in its growth.
3. Spiritual fruit is \_\_\_\_\_ in its growth.
4. Spiritual fruit is \_\_\_\_\_ in its growth.

**THE FRUIT OF \_\_\_\_\_ (v.22)**

The fourth quality of a person who is being controlled by the Spirit of God is longsuffering. Another word for *longsuffering* is “\_\_\_\_\_.”

**A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Longsuffering**

Longsuffering is a combination of two Greek words: the word *macro* which means “long or slow” and the word *thumia* which means “anger.” It literally means to be \_\_\_\_\_ as opposed to being \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, patience is the ability to be slow to anger, rather than being quick-tempered. Someone has said, “Patience is the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ when you feel like \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.”

**B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Longsuffering**

God tells us that we are to be longsuffering, but He never \_\_\_\_\_ something of us that He himself does not perfectly \_\_\_\_\_. God is longsuffering (II Pet. 3:9)! “We are to be \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ in refusing to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the wrongs people do to us” (Morris).

**C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Longsuffering**

How does God cultivate and develop long-suffering in us? He does so by placing us in situations that require patience. Often when we \_\_\_\_\_ for patience, He gives us opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_ patience.

**1. God uses \_\_\_\_\_ to develop patience (Jms. 1:3-4).**

God’s goal for you is spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Trials may be a bitter plant, but it always bears sweet fruit of patience.

**2. God uses \_\_\_\_\_ to develop patience (Eph. 4:2).**

Often the people we \_\_\_\_\_ the most also try our \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. The way we learn to be patient with other people is to remember how patient God has been with us! Allow the love of God to shine through you in the hue of patience.

**THE FRUIT OF \_\_\_\_\_ (v.22)**

The word *gentleness* means “moral excellence, usefulness, or kindness.” So another word for gentleness is \_\_\_\_\_.

**A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Kindness**

Gentleness is the \_\_\_\_\_ work of the Holy Spirit that produces sweetened \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Kindness is love in action, or love in shoe leather (I Cor. 13:4 - “Love is kind”). It is not just seeing and sensing a need, but actively working at meeting the need.

**B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Kindness (Eph. 4:32a)**

At the \_\_\_\_\_ of biblical, practical Christianity is kindness and \_\_\_\_\_. It easy to be kind to those who are kind to us, but we are called to be kind even to our \_\_\_\_\_ (Lk. 6:35). If you are truly saved, you cannot help but be kind, because the God of kindness lives in your heart.

**C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Kindness (Eph. 4:32b)**

We can certainly rejoice in the kindness of God toward us. Once again, what God \_\_\_\_\_ of us, He \_\_\_\_\_ for us. Our Savior was kind to we who did not “deserve” kindness. And because we have experienced the kindness and forgiveness of God through Christ, we are expected to show kindness to others. Kindness is simply \_\_\_\_\_ others the way God has \_\_\_\_\_ you.

One of the greatest marks of \_\_\_\_\_ is kindness. It is nice to be \_\_\_\_\_, but it is more \_\_\_\_\_ to be nice! \_\_\_\_\_ can motivate people to do things that \_\_\_\_\_ never can.

**THE FRUIT OF \_\_\_\_\_ (v.22)**

Real goodness is not a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, but a \_\_\_\_\_ matter. And since goodness is part of the fruit of the Spirit we know it is not something man can manufacture but something that God manifests in and through us.

**A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Goodness**

What is goodness? The word means “wellness, benefit, integrity, or virtue.” Goodness has to do with moral and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ that is known by its active \_\_\_\_\_.