



## Patience, Kindness, Generosity

*Instead of analyzing whether the glass is half empty or half full, wouldn't it be better to give the glass to someone who is thirsty?*

And every now and then, wouldn't it be good to receive a glass of cool water?

To accept it and say, "Thank you. You gave out of love, I accept out of love."

When we give and when we receive in the name of all that is good, the Holy Spirit is at work. This is the fruit of the Spirit: God's children know how to give and receive good gifts to / from each other.

Every day life is full of giving and receiving. One night this week I went to Murphy's Q.P. Hardware. I wanted to borrow a mulching mower. I was going to load the mower in the trunk, and I heard a voice ask "Where do you live?"

I was worried. All I wanted to do is mow my yard real fast and someone probably will talk about the church or has met me somewhere and now I'm in for a 15-minute conversation. He said, "You can't live too far from here. Put that mower in my pickup. Don't get your Camry all dirty." I did as I was told.

*Instead of analyzing whether the glass is half empty or half full, wouldn't it be much better to give the glass to someone who is thirsty?*

I have an even more profound question for you:

**In what new way is God laying claim to your life?**

**Patience, Kindness, and Generosity** are involved.

Spirit Fruit is growing **through** you, **around** you, and **in** you.

Please remember this: forming fruit is the Spirit's work. as John 15 tells us, "We are the branches., channels which carry the Spirit's life energy. God is the vine. It is the Spirit's life-force that bears the fruit.

**Patience.** We all know what that is, Amen? We all need more, don't we, Amen?

Patience is understanding God's time. "How long , O Lord" is our Psalm today.

If we see the patience around us we will have more patience ourselves.

**Kindness.** It's different from "niceness." Niceness can be something we do when we are afraid of what we are might feel down deep inside. **Kindness** is meeting people at the point of their need. Only the Spirit makes that possible.

**Kindness** is a gift to **us** as much as it is a gift to others.

**Kindness** moves us beyond our own limited view of the universe.

Piero Ferrucci, an Italian psychotherapist and writer, says that **Patience** and **Generosity** are part of **Kindness**. He writes: "Let us imagine a relationship, any relationship, in its pure state. Let us imagine it is stripped of judgment and comparison. We find ourselves in front of the other without a screen or defense, We feel lighter. We forget our hurry. We are free. I feel understood by you and you by me. Maybe nothing more is needed." He gives examples:

- \* The grocery store checker who opens a carton of eggs to see if any were broken. No one had asked her to do so
- \* The mechanic who helped you fix your car on his day off or stayed an hour later to get you on the road.
- \* The shopkeeper who tells you where you might go to find the item of which he is sold out.

*[Piero Ferrucci, Kindness, 2006 Penguin, New York]*

Acts like this and many more we experience every day are Spirit Fruit.

**Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,  
and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one  
who sent me.**

I confess I have a hard time being generous to people who aren't generous. I'm not talking only about financial giving, but in giving and forgiving in all sorts of ways.

When I hear people focusing on small stuff or being critical of others, or complaining, then I start being critical. Collaborating with the Spirit's efforts to nurture **Kindness** bears much more fruit.

**Our souls need the experience of being generous and accepting generosity. Being generous clears a path for the Spirit to bear fruit.**

*Instead of complaining that a glass is half empty, wouldn't it be better to give the glass to someone who is thirsty?*

**In what new way is God laying claim to your life?**

**God's Spirit is working with you and through you right now.**

Ferrucci writes, "Generosity touches the deepest strata of our being. To be generous means to conquer old fears." He retells an old parable: children build sand castles on the beach. Each has their own castle, their own territory. They squabble "It's mine." "No it's mine." Maybe they even scuffle. Evening comes and the children go back home. They forget about their sand castles and go to sleep. Meanwhile high tide erases all their creations. Ferrucci asks, "Do we really want to take ourselves and our ideas so seriously?"

*Instead of asking why the glass appears to be half full, wouldn't it be much better to accept it as a gift?*

Jesus said, "**Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.**"

What is the reward? Heaven, yes and more. We are channels for giving and receiving **Generosity, Kindness** and **Patience**. We become partakers of God's own nature when we work for the good, and live for the good, Paul writes [*Philippians 4:4-8*]:

**Whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,  
whatever is commendable,  
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things...and the God of peace  
will be with you.**

**In what new way is God laying claim to your life?  
God's Spirit is working with you and through you right now.**

How about a cup of water? It's not full but it's a start. I know where there's more. We know The Source, where there is Living Water.

The fruit of the Spirit is **Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control**

... Galatians 5: 22-23

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE PHILIPPIANS 4:**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

<sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

<sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

<sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## **\*GOSPEL SCRIPTURE MATTHEW 10:40-42**

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

<sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person

will receive the reward of the righteous;

<sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones

in the name of a disciple—

truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

## **\*GOSPEL SCRIPTURE - JOHN 15:1-5**

Jesus said, "I am the true vine and our Abba God is the vine grower. Every branch that bears fruit, God prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word I have spoken to you. **Live in me as I live in you.**

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it lives in the vine, neither can you unless you live in me. **I am the vine, you are the branches.**

**Those who live in me and I in them bear much fruit.**

It is not up to us to *be* the fruit of the Spirit.

We are *channels* of the Spirit's Fruit.

God is fully present with us here and now, as real here on earth  
as it is in heaven.

Every time we see **Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity,  
Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control** we know the Spirit is  
working in us or around us

*The Holy Spirit is God working with us, in us, through us,  
sometimes in spite of us, always for us and with us.*

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