



WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR LYLE WAHL

14 August 2026

Kindness

Today we come to the midpoint of the nine-fold fruit the Holy Spirit produces in God's people, *kindness*.

There is a lot of talk about kindness, about caring, helpful acts. We are challenged to get on the ARK, that is, to the practice of Acts of Random Kindness. At least two days have been set aside to focus on kindness: Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17th, and World Kindness Day on November 13th. Even so, there may be more *talk than walk* about kindness.



It is important to note that kindness is more than the acts of caring and being helpful. It is a quality of caring, of being willing to help that leads to the actions which are a practical demonstration of love.

Most of our English versions render the word Paul used here as *kindness*. The KJV rendered it *gentleness*. The basic ideas of this word are being useful, good and kind. Kindness is used in the Old and New Testaments of God and people.

Consider three Biblical references about God being kind.

In Psalm 145 king David declared, "The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and kind in all His works" (17).

In Romans chapter 2, as Paul called out people for judgmental and hypocritical actions, he wrote,

"do you think lightly of the riches of His [God's] kindness and restraint and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" (4)

In his letter to Titus Paul declared,

"when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy ..." (3:4-5a).

God is kind. He is kind to us, more kind than we can comprehend.

God calls us to be kind people, to be kind to each other.

God calls to us in Micah chapter 6,

“He has told you, mortal one, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (8).

Ephesians chapter 4 verse 32 tells us,

“Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

In Colossians chapter 3 Paul instructs us,

“as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” (12).

Luke’s record of Jesus’ Beatitudes includes,

“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 ungrateful and evil people” (6:35).

The character of kindness that God builds in us is to flow, to be displayed beyond *me and mine*, beyond the family of believers, to all. Yes, all, even to our enemies. If that sounds too difficult, remember that while we were enemies of God, He was kind to us. Paul wrote, “while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son” (Romans 5:10).

Recall Jesus’ parable of the good Samaritan. When he came across a half dead man on the side of a dangerous road, “he felt compassion” for him. He stopped, rendered first aid, and then took the man to a safe place and provided for his care. The Samaritan was kind, and kind to that man. He did what was needed, what was best for the man, and what he could do for him.

As we live close to and faithfully with God, the Holy Spirit is at work producing kindness as a vital and vibrant part of our character, which will lead to regular, intentional acts of kindness.

Pastor Lyle