

*More...Where our hunger meets His Promises*

Ephesians 5:18 NLT

Patience - Kindness - Goodness

---

*How many of you know that it's kind of a jungle out there right now?*

Many of us started our faith walk so hungry for God, and so seeking after his heart, and we were filled with dreams of what our futures could look like following Jesus - and now after many years and detours along the way, the light in our eyes may have dimmed. But, as we rehearse and recall our spiritual beginnings with Christ, that Light grows brighter *again* in us - we begin to get *excited* about Jesus once more.

None of us got here in a straight line, and we need to remember what God did for us in the beginning, *and* on the journey. There are times that we need to be reconnected to the Body of Christ to re-kindle the Fire we once had. When we get separated from Community as followers of Jesus, our fire goes out. We all need people and the community of believers - a spiritual family - people who are here because we, too are *after* God - we *need* him. We recognize that we need *Jesus* and the Power of the Holy Spirit - we need the *Helper* in our lives to *help* us.

When we come together, we are *better* - something happens that can't be replicated when we're alone in our shower or in a deer blind out in the woods. We can sing worship songs in our shower all day long, but it's not the same as when we come together corporately in one accord, understanding that God is attracted to the praises of his people - He inhabits [he sits down in and makes himself at home] in an atmosphere of praise and worship.

As we come together with a high value of the Presence of God in our midst - we desire him - we want him - we recognize that with his Presence comes *Life* - where *nothing* is it's equal. Some of us here are feeling like our light has gone out - like we're cold - and our prayers can't reach any higher than the ceiling. But the Good News today is that the Holy Spirit himself - not as *the Force* - or a *mist* or *vapor* - but as a Person, *helps us* - and we want to know him *more*. We want to surrender more - know more *about him* so that we can get the help we need to do exactly what we are called, empowered, and anointed to do.

Everyone of us here are ministers. If we name the name of Jesus, God has put a call on our lives. There are many lanes in this race, and we all have our own lane to run in, so we've been called, anointed, appointed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to run in our lane. If we feel frustrated in this season of our life, it might be because we don't feel like we're running in our lane - where God wants us to be - where we find Life and Love in what we're doing. We all have a lane where God's called us to be... we are *all* ministers here.

We've been talking about the Fruit of the Spirit. There are the manifestation Gifts of the Spirit, also called the Power gifts, or the dynamic gifts - then there are the Fruits of the Spirit. These are not opposites of each other, but they work together in harmony.

As things seem more out of control in the world, we need help - and the Good News is that Help is here! In the midst of it all, we can leak out what we're full of - Love - Kindness - Peace - Joy - Gentleness - Goodness - all Fruit of the Holy Spirit, where the Presence of God reaches out to others because he loves them.

It doesn't take much to stand out these days - just show up and be leaky buckets. We have buckets that need to be re-filled continuously with the Holy Spirit - and then we go out and make beautiful messes by leaking and spilling him out everywhere we go. And in this world that is so strained right now, it doesn't take much to stand out.

## **Love**

1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*

## **Joy**

Nehemiah 8:10 ESV

*"Then he said to them, 'Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.' [Not by gritting your teeth]"*

## **Peace**

Romans 15:13 NIV

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." [that is compelling in a world where it seems like the sky is falling.]*

We leak out what we're full of. As we're filled with the Presence of the Holy Spirit - the Person of the Holy Spirit - the Power of the Holy Spirit - as we are, then we simply go out and "*do Life*" - whether it's working our jobs, or fellowshiping and connecting with people - enjoying a night out with friends - or whether we're at home - we're leaking out and spilling over the Presence of God in the Holy Spirit.

## **Patience**

Literally means *to suffer long, long obedience in one direction, staying in the game, staying faithful, enduring over a long period of time.*

Romans 12:12 NIV

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."*

Ephesians 4:2 NIV

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

Colossians 3:12 NIV

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."*

Not only inside of you, but *upon* you - on the *outside* of you, where people see him *on you*. What we wear represents who we are and what we do. We are told that we're to put on *this uniform*: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Our clothes reveal who we are and what we do - our function - and we can put on Patience - the Fruit of the Spirit. It's not what we can work up, create, or generate, because we don't produce Patience. The *Spirit* produces it. We *bear* it - like a tree bears the weight of it - we get to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

## **Kindness**

*Others-focused, not self-focused*

There are times that we're nice to people so they'll be nice back to us. But in genuine *Kindness* we're not expecting anything in return because it's others-focused - others-centered. Niceness isn't a Fruit of the Spirit, but *Kindness is*.

Romans 2:4 NIV

*"Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?"*

Religion tells us that being afraid of God will keep us out of hell - but we respond to God's Love and Kindness. It was his *Kindness* that led us to turn *toward* him - not his wrath or anger, and not our fear of him or those other things. It was his Kindness (Colossians 3:12). And people respond and are attracted when we also show them Kindness.

## **Goodness**

Literally means *upright* or *honorable*.

Galatians 6:10 NIV

*"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." [Because the Spirit of God in us is doing Good - God is Good all the time! His Goodness operates in us and through us, and we're to do good to others.]*

Romans 12:21 NIV

*"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*

Matthew 12:33-34 NKJV

*"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."*

We leak *out* what we're full *of* - and when the Goodness is there, that's what will come out. If the tree is *Good*, it's going to bear Good Fruit. We say, "*Holy Spirit, Would You fill me - fill my buckets with all that You are - and as You do, I'm going to go out with these leaky - cracked - messed-up buckets - and as I go out, Your Life - Your Goodness - Patience - Kindness is going to leak out of me - and I'm going to make beautiful messes because of You - everywhere I go.*"

Imagine if 2.3 billion people [the estimated number of Christians on earth today] woke up tomorrow morning and decided to invite the Holy Spirit to lead them, and to allow his Fruit to be, not only *in* us, but *leak out of us* - then we could change the world! Why don't we start *here... with us?*

## Prayer

*Lord Jesus, we need Your help - we need the Helper! So, even now in this moment, Holy Spirit, would You fill us now? We need a refill of Your Patience, Kindness, and Goodness so that people we encounter every day can experience Your Grace - Your Life - the beautiful messes that we're making to see them light up and come to Faith - because they see it in us - not because we're perfect*

*... but because we're leaking You!*

*In Jesus' name. Amen*