

## The Gifts of Kindness & Goodness

Message 3 of 5 in the series: "The Gift that Keeps on Giving"

### A. God produces spiritual fruit (godly character qualities) in us so we can live abundant lives.

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it **more abundantly**." John 10:10b (NKJV)

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**." Galatians 5:22-23a (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** God is kind and good because that is His nature. He is the source of all kindness and goodness. If we remain connected to Him, we will become a little kinder and will manifest a little more of His goodness every day. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. **Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.**" John 15:5a (NLT)

### B. The Christmas story reminds us how kind and good God is.

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, 'Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!' Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 'Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for **you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus**. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!' Mary asked the angel, 'But how can this happen? I am a virgin.' The angel replied, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So **the baby to be born will be holy**, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For **the word of God will never fail.**"

Luke 1:26-37 (NLT)

1. God was kind and good to Mary allowing her to participate in His plan to save the world from sin and death even though she was just an ordinary young woman. "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For **he took notice of his lowly servant girl**, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him." Luke 1:46b-50 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** God has been amazingly kind and good to allow Name to participate in His plan to save the world from sin and death, too. "**Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you**. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God." 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NLT)

2. God was kind and good to all of us when He sent His Son into our world to save us from sin and death even though we didn't deserve it.

"For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. **But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us**, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through **Jesus Christ our Savior**..." Titus 3:3-6 (ESV)

**IMPORTANT!** Because Jesus was placed in Mary's womb while she was still a virgin, He was born sinless and holy. And because Jesus never sinned, He was able to purchase our freedom from sin and death by taking our place on the cross. "But when the right time came, **God sent his Son, born of a woman**, subject to the law. God sent him **to buy freedom for us** who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children." Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but **we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.**" Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

"...God made **Christ, who never sinned**, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** Jesus is the name above every other name. “There is salvation in no one else! **God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.**” Acts 4:12 (NLT)

Jesus = *Iēsous* (Greek) = *Yeshua* (Hebrew) = *Ya* (abbr. of Yahweh) + *yasha* (to rescue/save) = “God saves”.

**C. The Holy Spirit produces an abundance of God’s kindness and goodness in us, so we have plenty to share with others.**

Kindness and goodness = tender concern and virtue put into action.

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, **be kind to each other, tenderhearted**, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”  
Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

1. We can share God’s kindness and goodness with others by being generous to the poor. “**Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord**, and he will reward them for what they have done.”  
Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)
2. We can share God’s kindness and goodness with others by paying it forward. “All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. **He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others**. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT)
3. We can share God’s kindness and goodness with others by repaying evil with good. “Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, ‘I will take revenge; I will pay them back,’ says the Lord. Instead, ‘If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.’ **Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.**” Romans 12:17-21 (NLT) (*Deuteronomy 32:35, Proverbs 25:21-22*)
4. We can share God’s kindness and goodness with others by speaking the truth in love. “**Let the godly strike me! It will be a kindness!** If they correct me, it is soothing medicine. Don’t let me refuse it.”  
Psalm 141:5 (NLT) (*Ephesians 4:15*)

**IMPORTANT!** Kindness and goodness are not qualities we can manufacture on our own. But the Holy Spirit produces genuine kindness and goodness in us as we follow His leading. “Since we are living by the Spirit, **let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.**” Galatians 5:25 (NLT)

“So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. **May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.**”  
2 Thessalonians 1:11 (NLT)

JOHN SCHMIDT • 12-15-24 • john@centeringlives.com

**Connect Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Read John 10:10 & 15:1-5, & Galatians 5:16-25. What are some things that hinder us from experiencing the abundant Christian life Jesus promised us?
2. Why do you think God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus? (Luke 1:26-37) Why do you think God brought us together to carry out the ministry He has planned for Centerpoint Fellowship Church? (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)
3. Why does it matter that Jesus was placed in Mary’s womb by the Holy Spirit while she was still a virgin? (Galatians 4:4-5, Hebrews 4:15, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Discuss the following ways we can share God’s kindness and goodness with others. (Ephesians 4:31-32)
  - We can share God’s kindness and goodness with others by being generous to the poor. (Proverbs 19:17)
  - We can share God’s kindness and goodness with others by paying it forward. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
  - We can share God’s kindness and goodness with others by repaying evil with good. (Romans 12:17-21, Deuteronomy 32:35, Proverbs 25:21-22)
  - We can share God’s kindness and goodness with others by speaking the truth in love. (Psalm 141:5, Ephesians 4:15)

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit developing goodness and kindness in your life this past year?

5. Gabriel instructed Mary to name her baby “Jesus” (God saves). What does Jesus’ name tell us about His identity, His mission, and His character? (Acts 4:12 & 10:43, Philippians 2:6-8)

6. A few more Bible verses on goodness to consider:

“Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!” Psalm 34:8 (NLT)

“Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.” Galatians 6:10 (NLT)

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17 (NIV)