

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Devotional: Summer 2020

INTRODUCTION

This summer we are exploring the fruit of the Spirit: how God changes us through his Spirit to make us more like Jesus. Thank you for joining other Redeemer East Siders to grow in the fruit of the Spirit through devotionals, discussions and noonday prayer.

Use this devotional guide to deepen your understanding of the power of God's Spirit. Each day begin with the opening prayer, choose a Scripture passage and quotation to reflect on, and then pray the closing prayer. The worship songs can be listened to throughout the week. When a particular Scripture stands out to you, pause and meditate on it, considering what you learn about God, humanity, and why God is showing this to you today. Pray for the Spirit to work this fruit into your life.

WEEK 6, AUGUST 9: KINDNESS

▶ LISTEN

- [See the Day - Liz Vice](#)
- [King of Kings - Hillsong](#)

▶ OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, who bid Your disciples to shine as lights in a dark world, in shame and contrition of heart do I acknowledge before You the many faults and weaknesses of which we are guilty who in this generation represent Your Church before the world; and especially do I acknowledge my own part in the same. Forgive me, I ask You, the weakness of my witness, the smallness of my generosity, and the lack of my enthusiasm. Make me a more worthy follower of Him who cared for the poor and the oppressed, and who could never see disease without seeking to heal it or any kind of human need without turning aside to help. Let Your power, O Christ, be in us all, to share the world's suffering and make right its wrongs. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

▶ SCRIPTURE

- Psalm 42 and 43
- Psalm 84
- Jeremiah 9:23-24
- Micah 6:8
- Luke 10:25-37
- Romans 15:1-9
- 1 John 4:7-21

▶ KINDNESS

- **Definition:** Love in action that offers true friendship not just help.
- **Opposite:** Self-absorbed distance in the face of others' differences, needs and hurts.
- **Counterfeit:** Cowardly fear of upsetting anyone, or self-congratulatory charity.

▶ REFLECTION QUOTES

"But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but you truly love them....The mystery of ministry is that the Lord is to be found where we minister. That is what Jesus tells us when he says: 'Insofar as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me' (Matthew 25:40). Our care for people thus becomes the way to meet the Lord. The more we give, help, support, guide, counsel and visit, the more received, not just similar gifts, but the Lord himself. To go to the poor is to go to the Lord. Living this truth in our daily life makes it possible to care for people without conditions, without hesitation, without suspicion, or without the need for immediate rewards." —Henri Nouwen

"Notice that he does not say, 'If a man loves God but doesn't love his brother, he is unbalanced' [1 John 4]. No, he says he is a liar. True love to God goes along with love to others [kindness]. If they are not both there, neither is truly there at all."
—Timothy Keller

"It may well be that we will have to repent in this generation. Not merely for the vitriolic words and the violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around and say, 'Wait on time.'"
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

"[Those who are unsure] that God loves and accepts them in Jesus, apart from their present spiritual achievements, are subconsciously radically insecure persons....Their insecurity shows itself in pride, a fierce defensive assertion of their own righteousness and defensive criticism of others. They come naturally to hate other cultural styles and other races in order to bolster their own security and discharge their suppressed anger....Once faith is exercised, a Christian is free...to wear his culture like a comfortable suit of clothes. He can shift to other cultural clothing temporarily if he wishes to do so, as Paul suggests in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, and he is released to admire and appreciate the differing expressions of Christ shining out through other cultures." —Richard Lovelace

"When we practice hospitality, we experience the refreshing joy of becoming conduits of God's hospitality rather than being self-decaying cul-de-sacs. The joy of receiving God's hospitality decays and dies if it doesn't flourish in our own hospitality to others. [We could ask ourselves], how can I draw the most people into a deep experience of God's hospitality by the use of my [money, things] home, and church home? Who might need reinforcements just now in the battle against loneliness, [poverty, marginalization]? What two or three people's complementary abilities might explode in a new ministry if they had two hours to brainstorm over dinner in my house?" —John Piper

"We love people universally by loving the particular people we know and can name. We love the world by loving a particular place in it, a specific hill or city or block. The incarnation of Jesus is the ultimate example of this....We are drawn to those we find lovely and likable. Yet those Jesus spent his time among, and those most drawn to Jesus, were the odd, the disheveled, and the outcast." —Tish Harrison Warren

▶ CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

▶ Want to continue meditating on Scripture throughout the week? Consider using the Redeemer Devotional daily email: redeemer.com/devotional and Virtual Noonday prayer: eastside.redeemer.com/prayer

