

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:  
**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

Devotional: Summer 2020

## INTRODUCTION

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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 7, AUGUST 16: GOODNESS

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### ▶ LISTEN

- **Entrance** - Liz Vice
- **Good to Me** - Audrey Assad
- **What a Friend We Have in Jesus** - Shane and Shane

### ▶ OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### ▶ SCRIPTURE

- Psalm 15
- Psalm 51
- Matthew 12:33-37
- Ephesians 4:15-16, 22-32
- Proverbs 5:1-2; 12:13-14, 17-19; 15:4; 16:2, 24, 27-28; 29:5
- Proverbs 11:12,13; 12:22-23, 25; 15:1, 23; 17:27-28; 18:13; 25:11-12 ,15
- James 1:26; 3:1-10; 5:9

## ▶ KINDNESS

- **Definition:** Honesty, transparency, integrity (being the same in one situation as another)
- **Opposite:** Phoniness, hypocrisy
- **Counterfeit:** Truth without love; venting or “getting it off one’s chest” but unwisely and unkindly

## ▶ REFLECTION QUOTES

“Truth-telling is difficult...[Some might say] ‘I just can’t tell him the truth. It would destroy him/me.’ God tells us to ‘speak the truth in love’ (Ephesians 4:15, 25). Often, we are excusing cowardice or pride under ‘can’t.’ What we really mean is: ‘If I tell him that, he may not like me anymore. I would be humiliated. He would be upset. I won’t risk that cost—I would rather disobey.’”  
— Timothy Keller

“Imagine a society in which no one trusted another to keep a promise, in which every leader was expected to lie as a matter of course, in which every teacher was suspected as an academic cheat and every preacher a moral fraud, in which contracts were [never] expected to be honored....No partner could ever bank on the loyalty of another....If I lie to my neighbor, I take reality away from him. I force him to decide on the basis of falsehood, unreality. If I tell a person who wants to buy my car that it is in splendid mechanical shape, although...it needs a valve job, I rob him of the freedom to decide on the basis of reality. If you pretend that you are pleased with your daughter’s report card when in fact you are furious because she has not been studying and her grades show it, you rob her of the freedom to respond to your anger and force her to respond to a charade instead. Thus, lying demeans our neighbors. We treat them as non-persons...” — Lewis Smedes

“We build trust by being true to our word, by holding on to one another, by staying at the table long enough to understand the differences. We need to recognize sometimes that there are fundamental differences, and communities have to work with that reality, and it doesn’t always work out easily.” — Christine Pohl

“The remedy for unpredictability, for the chaotic uncertainty of the future, is contained in the faculty to make and keep promises. Both faculties depend upon plurality, on the presence and acting of others, for no man can forgive himself and no one can be bound by a promise made only to himself.” — Hannah Arendt

“When it comes to a question of our forgiving other people, it is partly the same and partly different. It is the same because, here also, forgiving does not mean excusing. Many people seem to think it does. They think that if you ask them to forgive someone who has cheated or bullied them you are trying to make out that there was really no cheating or bullying. But if that were so, there would be nothing to forgive. (This doesn’t mean that you must necessarily believe his next promise. It does mean that you must make every effort to kill every taste of resentment in your own heart - every wish to humiliate or hurt him or to pay him out.) The difference between this situation and the one in which you are asking God’s forgiveness is this. In our own case we accept excuses too easily, in other people’s we do not accept them easily enough. As regards my own sins it is a safe bet (though not a certainty) that the excuses are not really so good as I think; as regards other men’s sins against me it is a safe bet (though not a certainty) that the excuses are better than I think. One must therefore begin by attending to everything which may show that the other man was not so much to blame as we thought. But even if he is absolutely fully to blame we still have to forgive him; and even if ninety-nine per cent of his apparent guilt can be explained away by really good excuses, the problem of forgiveness begins with the one percent of guilt that is left over. To excuse, what can really produce good excuses is not Christian charity; it is only fairness. To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” — C. S. Lewis

## ▶ CLOSING PRAYER

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

