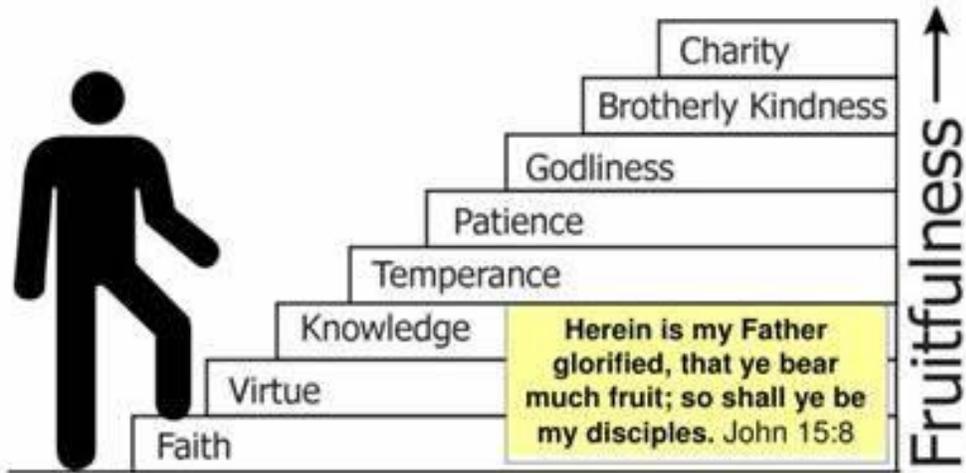


God's Call to Spiritual Growth

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. Psalm 37:23,24



MARCH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

SOLID STEPS OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Lesson Eleven:
Add To Your Faith Brotherly
Kindness

Scripture Lesson:
II Peter 1:5-7

II Peter 1:5-7 NKJV, But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness BROTHERLY KINDNESS, and to brotherly kindness love.

Faith Has A Three-Fold Dimension:

- **Inward** (virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience)
- **Upward** (godliness)
- **Outward** (brotherly kindness and love).

**“Kindness is a language
which the deaf can hear and
the blind can see.”**

The Definition Of Brotherly Kindness

**The Greek word for BROTHERLY
KINDNESS is translated "Philadelphia,"
a compound involving two words:
"phileo" (love) and "adelphos"
(brother). It literally means "the love of
brothers."**

Romans 12:10, Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love.

Hebrews 13:1, Let brotherly love continue. But can it be said of us, that which was

I Thessalonians 4:9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you.

The First Two Brothers In The Old Testament

Scripture Reference: Genesis Chapter 4

**The First Two Brothers Of The New
Testament
Gospel John Chapter One**

Three Examples of the Kindness of Jesus:

1. Jesus Cleanses A Leper

Matthew 8:1-4

**2. Jesus Spent Time With
Zacchaeus
LUKE 19:1-10**

**3. Jesus Showed Compassion to
the Suffering
Luke 8**

**If we step outside of our lives and
create acts of kindness to the
unsuspecting, the undeserving or
the hurting, we could change the
world.**

**What Does Jesus Look Like In
You?**

**“Brotherly Kindness is Jesus
Loving the World Through Me!”**

**People with a heart for God
have a heart for people.**

**Hebrews 13:1-3, let brotherly
love continue.**

Hindrances to Brotherly Kindness:

Hindrances:

1. **Self-love** - so occupied with number one that the interests of others are lost sight of.
2. **Pride** - demanding constant attention from others.
3. **A Sectarian Spirit** – the spirit of the Pharisee.

Obstacles to Maintaining Brotherly Love:

- 1. The Love of The World.**
- 2. Failure to Mortify the Lusts of the Flesh.**
- 3. Being Unduly Wrapped Up in the Members of Our Own Family.**
- 4. A Readiness to Listen to Idle Gossip.**
- 5. Impatience**

Four Ways Brotherly Kindness is Manifested?

**I. THROUGH THE VALUE OF
ACCEPTANCE!**

- **Accept Allowable Differences**

Romans 14:1, Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.

- **Take An Interest In Others**

Philippians 2.3-4

- **Practice Hospitality**

1 Peter 4.9, Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.



II.THROUGH POSITIVE COMMUNICATION!

- **Cautious With Criticism**

Matthew 7:1, Judge not, that you be not judged.

- **Liberal With Praise**

1 Corinthians 13.4, Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

Romans 12.9-10, Let love be without hypocrisy.

Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.

The background features several thin, light brown lines that intersect to form various geometric shapes, including triangles and quadrilaterals, creating a modern, abstract pattern.

III.THROUGH CONFLICT RESOLUTION!

**“Be angry and do not sin...” Ephesians
5.26**

▪ **Know The Facts First – Not Hearsay.**

**Proverbs 18.13, He who answers a matter
before he hears it, it is folly and shame to
him.**

▪ **Attack The Problem – Not The Person.**

Matthew 18.15-17

**IV.THROUGH THE ART OF
FORGIVENESS!**

**It Keeps no record of
wrongs...” 1 Corinthians 13.5**

**▪ Easier When We Remember
Our Own Faults...**

**▪ Forgiving as Christ forgave...
Ephesians 4:32**

**“To know love, open your heart
to Jesus. To show love, open
your heart to others.”**

The Attitude And Actions Of Brotherly Kindness:

I. The Attitude that Produces Brotherly Kindness

This Attitude Is to Put Others Before Self. The more we focus on others rather than self, the easier it becomes for us to cultivate brotherly kindness. **Romans 12:10, “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.”**

II. The Actions that Display Brotherly Kindness

There are no point spending hours talking about it if this does not lead to action. Action must be our goal for cultivating brotherly kindness.

Galatians 6:10, As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

**HOW DO WE INCREASE MORE
AND MORE IN BROTHERLY
KINDNESS?**

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed, ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

To Increase In Brotherly Kindness, We can:

- 1. Listen to their concerns.**
- 2. Mourn with them as they go through their trials.**
- 3. Comfort them when they experience difficulties.**
- 4. Find ways to serve them outside of your specified church hour block.**
- 5. Pray for them.**
- 6. Become their friend.**

Bible Study Follow Up Chat

- 1. Why should we love each other?**
- 2. Why do we always seem to neglect the people who we are closest to?**
- 3. Although Scripture underscores the importance of brotherly love, our common salvation does not seem to result in increasing affection, enthusiasm, and care for other believers. What factors do you believe hinder Christians from cherishing each other more than they do?**

4. What steps should we take to ensure that we grow and abound in love for fellow believers so that sinners might stand in amazement and glorify God because of our love for one another?

5. Do you show kindness towards those with whom you disagree? Those from whom you are different? Even towards those who might despise you – or those whom you might be tempted to despise?

6. Is kindness evident in you from the moment you meet someone, as opposed to only after they are first kind to you? Or only after they have earned your kindness? Is kindness evident in you long after you've known someone, and they've had plenty of chances to un-earn your kindness?