

Fruitful faith



SHOFAR TABLE VIEW

14 AUGUST 2016

The garment of the High Priest



Love is the filling....



1 COR 12:31 (NKJ)

**BUT EARNESTLY DESIRE THE BEST [\[D\]](#)
GIFTS. AND YET I SHOW YOU A MORE
EXCELLENT WAY.**

Kindness- a testimony



What is kindness?



- **Hebrew word for Kindness**
 - Conveys the concept of covenant loyalty, love and faithfulness (marriage)
 - Kindness is Love in Action
 - Kindness is

God is abundant in kindness



Nehemiah 9:17 (NKJV)

- But You *are* God,
Ready to pardon,
Gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger,
Abundant in kindness,

His kindness to us never stops



Psalms 136 (TLB)

- Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his loving-kindness continues forever.
- ² Give thanks to the God of gods, for his loving-kindness continues forever. ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his loving-kindness continues forever. ⁴ Praise him who alone does mighty miracles, for his loving-kindness continues forever. ⁵ Praise him who made the heavens, for his loving-kindness continues forever. ⁶ Praise him who planted the water within the earth, ^[a] for his loving-kindness continues forever.

Isaiah 54:10 (TLB)

- ¹⁰ For the mountains may depart and the hills disappear, but my kindness shall not leave you.

Compassion is intertwined with everything God does

Psalm 145: 8,9 (TLB)

Jehovah is kind and merciful, slow to get angry, full of love. ⁹ He is good to everyone, and *his compassion is intertwined with everything he does.*

God delights in us when we expect His kindness



Psalm 145:7 (TLB)

But his joy is in those who reverence him, those who expect him to be loving and kind.

Fruitful growth in the faith.....



2 Peter 1: 5-8

- ⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, *add to your faith* virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness *brotherly kindness*, and to brotherly kindness love.
- ⁸ *For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The great commandment: revisited



Luke 10:27

- So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

The sheep and the goats



- [Matthew 25:40](#)
- And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, *inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.*

Loving God by showing kindness to a neighbour



- **Luke 10 (TLB)**
- ²⁵ One day an expert on Moses' laws came to test Jesus' orthodoxy by asking him this question: "Teacher, what does a man need to do to live forever in heaven?"
- ²⁶ Jesus replied, "What does Moses' law say about it?"
- ²⁷ "It says," he replied, "that you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind. And you must love your neighbor just as much as you love yourself."
- ²⁸ "Right!" Jesus told him. "*Do this and you shall live!*"
- ²⁹ The man wanted to justify his lack of love for some kinds of people, [\[d\]](#) so he asked, "Which neighbors?"



- ³⁰ Jesus replied with an illustration: “A Jew going on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes and money, and beat him up and left him lying half dead beside the road.
- ³¹ “By chance a Jewish priest came along; and when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³² A Jewish Temple-assistant^[e] walked over and looked at him lying there, but then went on.
- ³³ “But a despised Samaritan^[f] came along, and when he saw him, *he felt deep pity*. ³⁴ Kneeling beside him the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his donkey and walked along beside him till they came to an inn, where he nursed him through the night.^[g] ³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two twenty-dollar bills^[h] and told him to take care of the man. ‘If his bill runs higher than that,’ he said, ‘I’ll pay the difference the next time I am here.’



- 36 “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the bandits’ victim?”
- 37 The man replied, “The one who showed him some pity.”
- Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

Jesus's miracles were intertwined by compassion



- **Feeding the Four Thousand**

Now Jesus called His disciples to *Himself* and said, “*I have compassion on the multitude*, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way (**Matthew 15:32**)”

- **Raising the son of the widow of Nain**

¹³ When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” ¹⁴ Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still.

(**Luke 7:13**)

God often does the supernatural (spiritual) through the natural (kindness)



- As we are following Jesus with our whole life everything becomes spiritual and there is no need to distinguish between what is “spiritual” and what is “secular”.
- As we understand that there is a kingdom needed to be brought in, the church will pervade the marketplace and the school and the sports club and there will just be Jesus-following people living it out (love in action=kindness) and seeing transformation all around them

How do we do this?



- ² But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws.
- ²⁴ **Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross and crucified them there.**
- ²⁵ **If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.** ²⁶ Then we won't need to look for honors and popularity, which lead to jealousy and hard feelings.

Fragrance



- [John 12:3](#)
- Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the **fragrance** of the oil.
- [Corinthians 2:14](#)
- Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the **fragrance** of His knowledge in every place.

