

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

—Galatians 5:22, 23

Good Fruit

• No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

—Luke 6:43-45

• Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

—Psalm 1:1-3

• The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

—Isaiah 32:17

• Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.

—Matthew 12:33

Bad Fruit

Acts of the sinful nature

- sexual immorality
- impurity
- idolatry
- debauchery
- factions
- hatred
- drunkenness
- jealousy
- lust
- filthy language
- witchcraft
- envy
- selfish ambition
- orgies
- greed
- fits of rage
- slander
- anger
- evil desires
- malice
- deceit

(Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-9)

Definition

Exemplified in Jesus

Other Scripture References

Greek Word



LOVE  
Seeks the highest good of others

**Love** is not based on emotions or feelings. It is a decision to be committed to the well being of others without any conditions or circumstances.

For God so **loved** the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

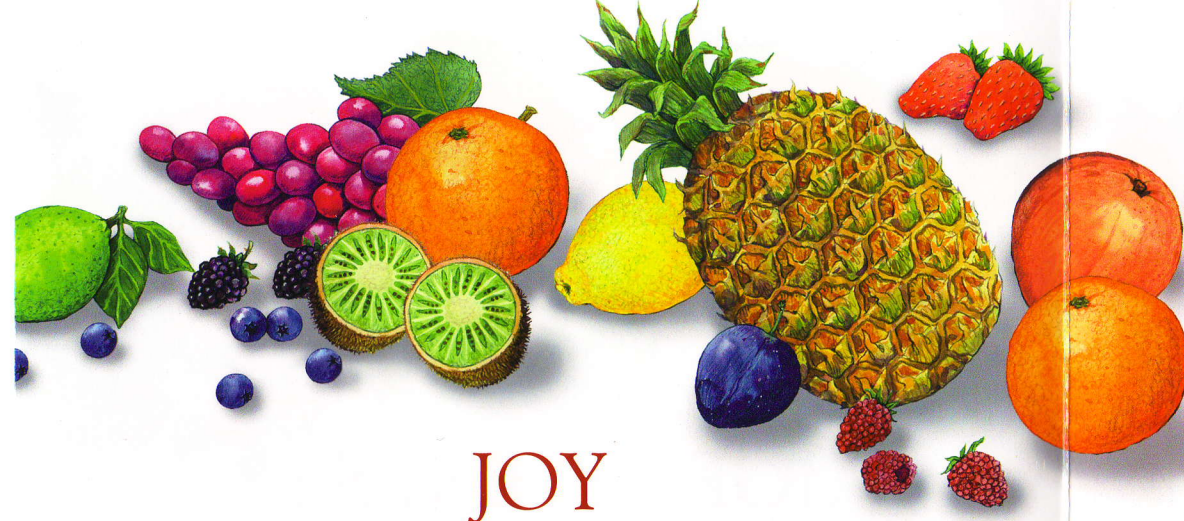
Jesus said: “As the Father has **loved** me, so have I **loved** you. Now remain in my **love**.” (John 15:9)

Jesus said, “My command is this: **Love** each other as I have **loved** you. Greater **love** has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.” (John 15:12-14)

Dear friends, let us **love** one another, for **love** comes from God. Everyone who **loves** has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not **love** does not know God, because God is **love**. This is how God showed his **love** among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is **love**: not that we **loved** God, but that he **loved** us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so **loved** us, we also ought to **love** one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we **love** one another, God lives in us and his **love** is made complete in us. (1 John 4:7-12)

αγαπη: **agape** (pronounced ah-gah-pey)





## JOY

Gladness not based on circumstances

*Joy* is more than happiness. It is not based on financial success, good health, or popularity. By believing in God, obeying his will, receiving his forgiveness, participating in fellowship with other believers, ministering to others, and sharing the Gospel, believers will experience *joy*.

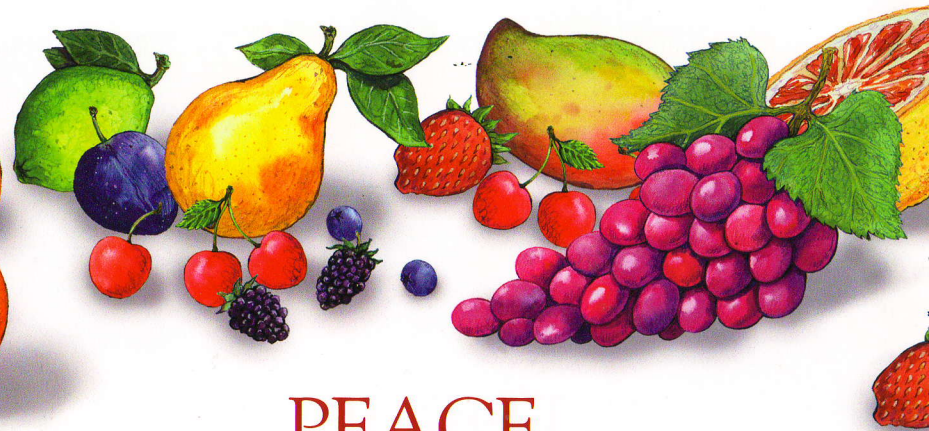
At that time Jesus, full of *joy* through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure." (Luke 10:21)

Jesus said: "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my *joy* within them." (John 17:13)

Jesus said: "Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will *rejoice*, and no one will take away your *joy*. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your *joy* will be complete." (John 16:22-24)

Though you have not seen him [Jesus], you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious *joy*, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8, 9)

χαρά: *chara* (pronounced **kah-rah**)



## PEACE

Contentment, unity between people

*Peace* is a state of assurance, lack of fear, and sense of contentment. It is fellowship, harmony, and unity between individuals. Peace is freedom from worry, disturbance, and oppressive thoughts.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of *Peace*.

Of the increase of his government and *peace* there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:6, 7)

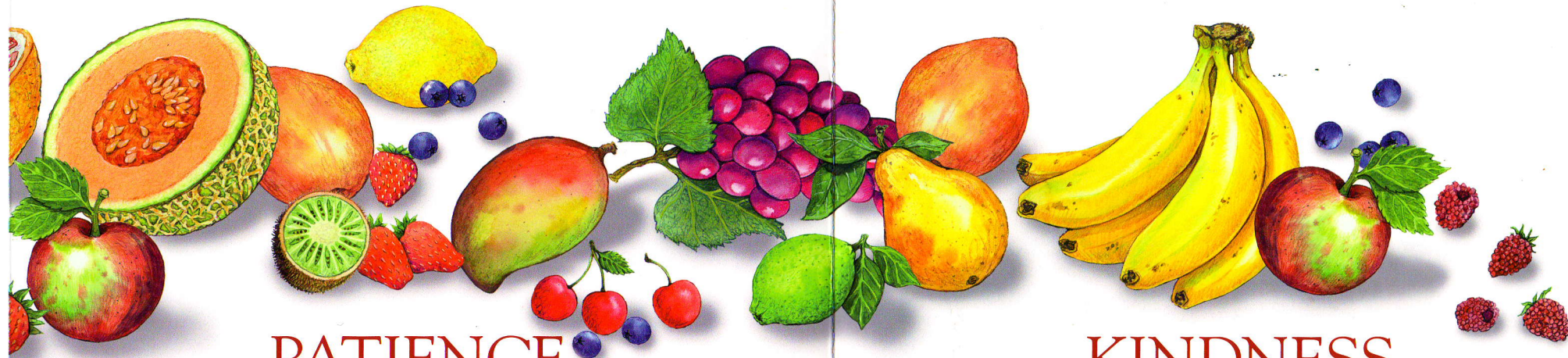
Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to *peace* and to mutual edification. (Romans 14:19)

For God is not a God of disorder but of *peace*. (1 Corinthians 14:33)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the *peace* of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6, 7)

εἰρήνη: *eirene* (pronounced eh-rey-ney)





## PATIENCE

Slow to speak and slow to anger

**Patience** is a slowness in avenging wrongs. It is the quality of restraint that prevents believers from speaking or acting hastily in the face of disagreement, opposition, or persecution. Patience is bearing pain or problems without complaining.

In a letter to his friend Timothy, the apostle Paul wrote: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited **patience** as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

A **patient** man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly. (Proverbs 14:29)

A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a **patient** man calms a quarrel. (Proverbs 15:18)

And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be **patient** with everyone. (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

You too, be **patient** and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. (James 5:8, 9)

μακροθυμία: **makrothumia** (pronounced mah-krow-**thew**-me-ah)

## KINDNESS

Merciful, sweet, and tender

**Kindness** is an eagerness to put others at ease. It is a sweet and attractive temperament that shows friendly regard.

But when the **kindness** and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:4, 5)

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his **kindness** to us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6, 7)

A **kindhearted** woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth. A **kind** man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself. (Proverbs 11:16, 17)

“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises **kindness**, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23, 24)

χρηστοτης: **chrestotes** (pronounced krey-stah-teys)



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—Galatians 5:22, 23

### Bearing Fruit

• But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

—Jeremiah 17:7, 8

• For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

—Ephesians 5:8-11

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Remain in me,  
and I will remain in you.

No branch can  
bear fruit by itself;  
it must remain in the vine.  
Neither can you bear fruit  
unless you remain in me.

I am the vine; you are the  
branches. If a man remains  
in me and I in him, he will  
bear much fruit; apart from  
me you can do nothing.

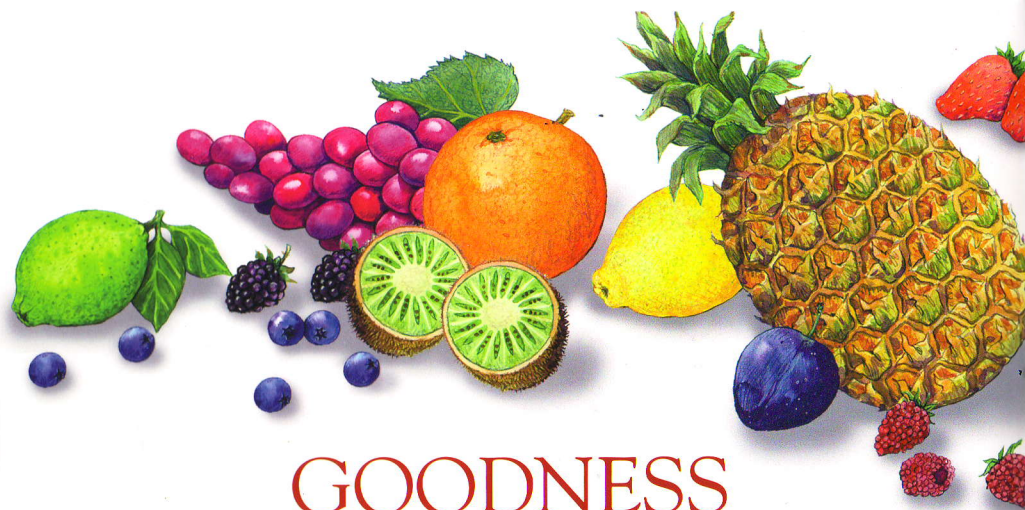
—John 15:4, 5

### Definition

### Exemplified in Jesus

### Other Scripture References

### Greek Word



## GOODNESS

Generous and open hearted

*Goodness* is the selfless desire to be open hearted and generous to others above what they deserve.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us *generously* through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

Surely *goodness* and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalm 23:6)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all *goodness*, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. (Ephesians 5:8-10)

Let us not become weary in doing *good*, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do *good* to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:9, 10)

αγαθωσύνη: *agathosune* (pronounced ah-gah-thow-soo-ney)





## FAITHFULNESS

Dependable, loyal, and full of trust

**Faithfulness** is firm devotion to God, loyalty to friends, and dependability to carry out responsibilities. Faith is the conviction that even now God is working and acting on one's behalf.

Righteousness will be his [Jesus'] belt and **faithfulness** the sash around his waist. (Isaiah 11:5)

When seeing a vision of Jesus, John said: "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called **Faithful** and True." (Revelation 19:11a)

But Christ is **faithful** as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast. (Hebrews 3:6)

Let love and **faithfulness** never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 3:3)

Reprimanding a group of hypocritical religious leaders, Jesus said: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and **faithfulness**. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former." (Matthew 23:23)

Be **faithful**, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10b)

πιστις: **pistis** (pronounced **piss-tiss**)



## GENTLENESS

Humble, calm, non-threatening

**Gentleness** is a humble non-threatening demeanor that derives from a position of strength and authority, and is useful in calming another's anger. **Gentleness** is not a quality that is weak and passive.

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am **gentle** and **humble** in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Matthew quoted Zechariah 9:9 in reference to Jesus' triumphal entry: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, **gentle** and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" (Matthew 21:5)

A **gentle** answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1)

What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a **gentle** spirit? (1 Corinthians 4:21)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your **gentleness** be evident to all. The Lord is near. (Philippians 4:4, 5)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

πραυτης: **prautes** (pronounced **prah-oo-teys**)





# SELF-CONTROL

Behaving well

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*Self-control* is to restrain one's emotions, actions, and desires, and to be in harmony with the will of God. Self-control is doing God's will, not living for one's self.

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On the night Jesus was betrayed, he knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet **not my will**, but yours be done." (Luke 22:41, 42)

When they [his accusers] hurled their insults at him [Jesus], he **did not retaliate**; when he [Jesus] suffered, he made no threats. Instead he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. (1 Peter 2:23)

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Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks *self-control*. (Proverbs 25:28)

A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself *under control*. (Proverbs 29:11)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live *self-controlled*, upright and godly lives in this present age. (Titus 2:11, 12)

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and *self-controlled* so that you can pray. (1 Peter 4:7)

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ἐγκράτεια: *egkratea* (pronounced eg-krah-teh-ee-ah)