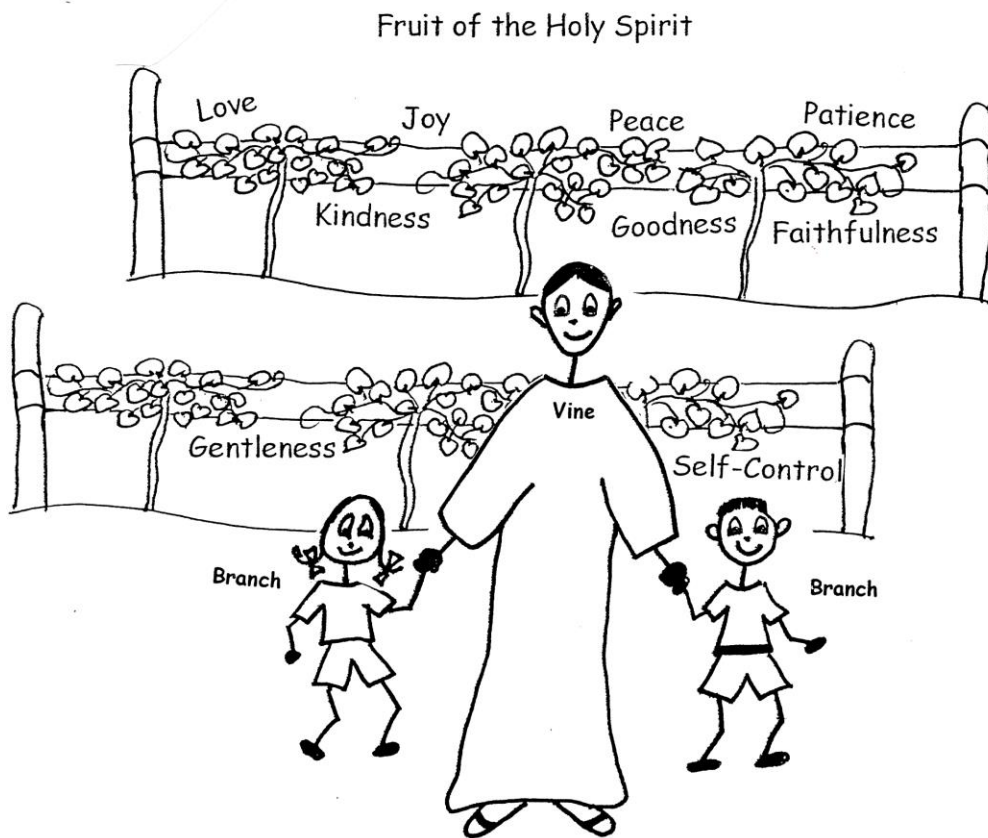


Fruit of the Spirit

Gentleness

9-5-2013

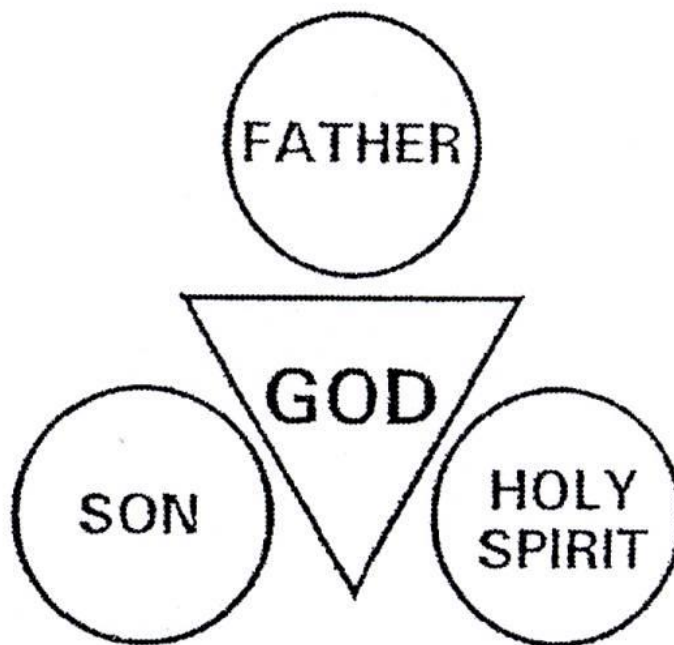
Revised 1-31-2015



Galatians 5:22-23 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 [we can't do works to experience them; we study and the Holy Spirit gives us understanding so we can experience them].

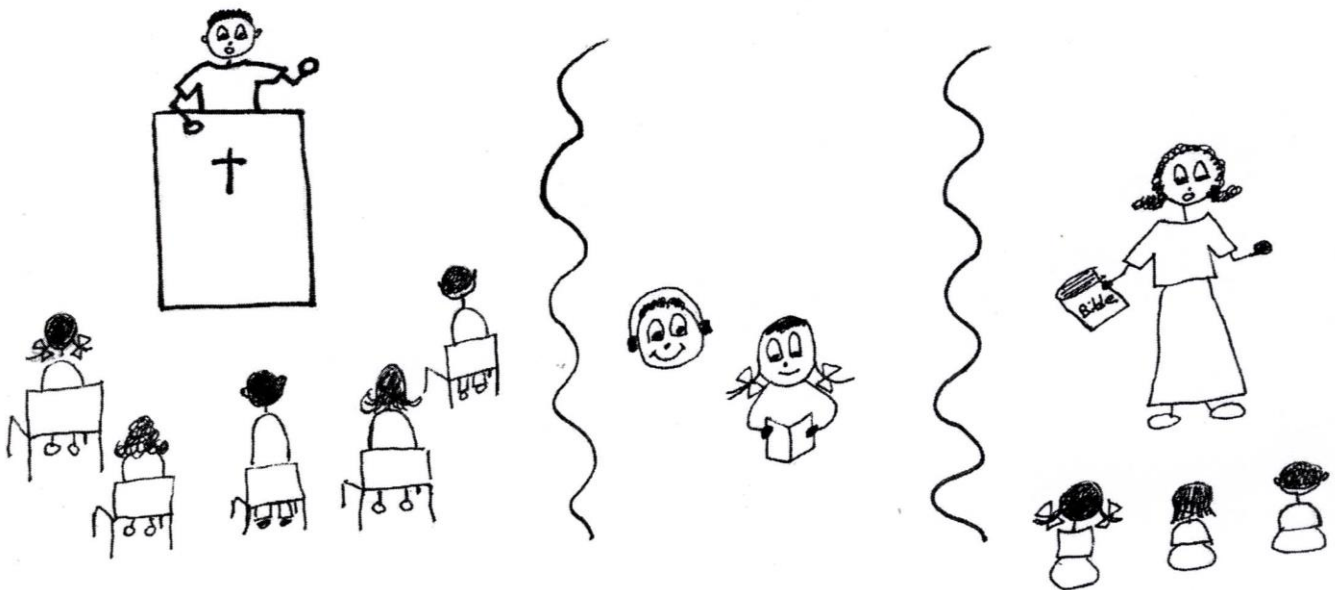
Gentleness: Considerate or kindly in disposition; amiable and tender.
2. Not harsh or severe; mild and soft.

God's gentleness is certainly all of these descriptions. And, He wants us to have His gentleness! So, through the Holy Spirit, God's gentleness is poured into us. It is supernatural, so it is something we can't produce on our own; we need the supernatural power of God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will develop the understanding of gentleness in us as we learn the word of God and use it. Then we can experience God's gentleness!



Psalm 18:35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; and Your **gentleness** makes me great.

Another word for gentleness is humility. When we have gentleness, or humility, we have the right attitude and we can be taught. As believers, we learn the thinking of Jesus Christ in the Bible through the power of God the Holy Spirit. With this thinking, we learn to correctly judge ourselves. We admit our mistakes. We agree with God's thinking. This takes humility! We depend on the Holy Spirit to change us and to guide us in the plan of God.



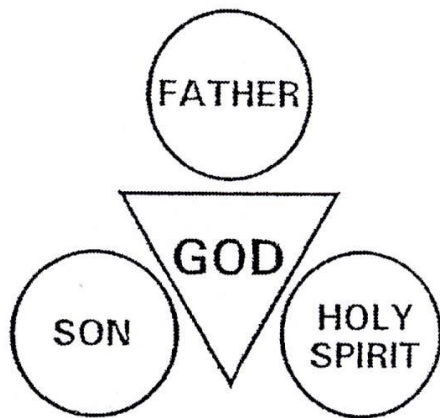
Ephesians 4:1-2 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and **gentleness**, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love...

When we have God's gentleness, we are free from arrogance. In other words, we are God-centered instead of self-centered! We don't pretend to be more or less than we really are. We are happy to be the person God wants us to be! God the Holy Spirit is changing believers, the body of Christ, into the image of Christ! That's who God wants us to be. He wants us all to experience God's gentleness and to treat one another with the same gentleness.



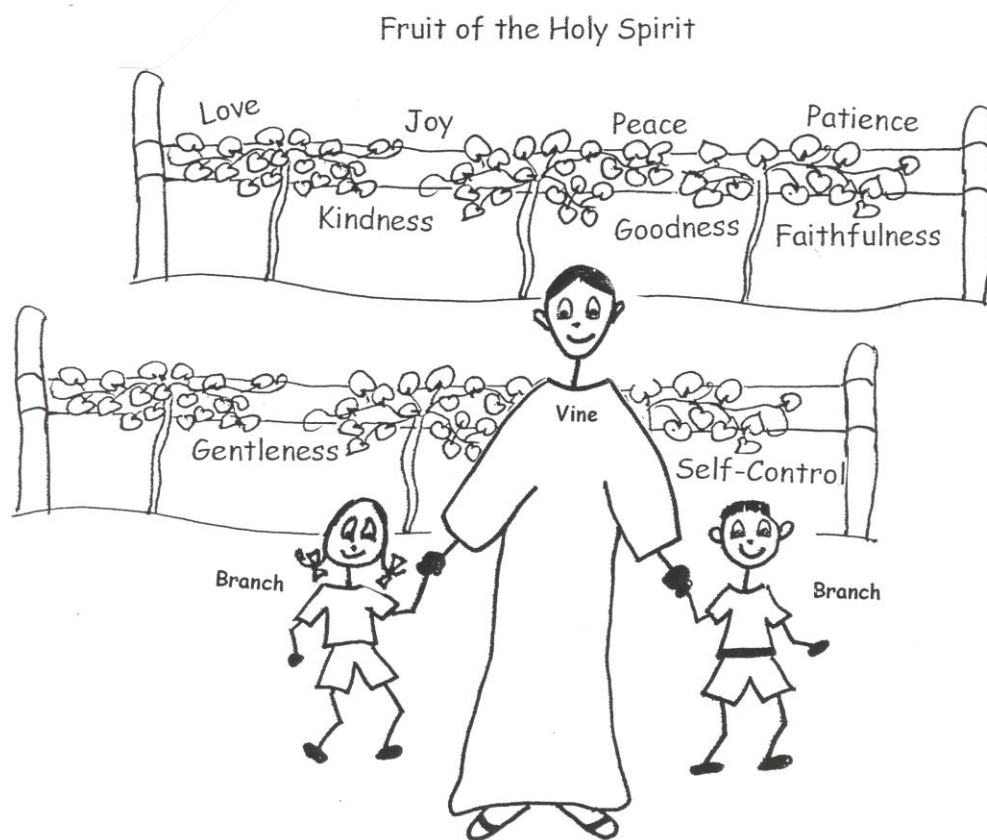
Philippians 4:4-5 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your **gentle** spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

When we recognize, respect, and obey legitimate authority, we are humble. Legitimate authority is God's authority and the authority He gives to the people in charge of us. We are considerate of their authority over us and we follow their directions. We take responsibility for our actions! This is humility! This is gentleness.



Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey you parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" - which is the first commandment with a promise - "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

When we have **gentleness**, we are able to forgive others. To really forgive someone, we have to excuse him or her of the wrong he or she did to us. We're not even to bring it up again. We have to leave it in the hands of the Lord. **We can only do this through the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ's thinking in our souls. We have to depend on God! We have to abide in the Vine!**



James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle**, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

Luke 17:4 If someone sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, "I repent," **forgive him.**

To be willing to forgive takes concentrating, through the power of God the Holy Spirit, on Scriptures from the Bible. What really counts in our life is how much of Christ's thinking we have in our souls. If we learn, believe, and use the thinking of Jesus Christ, we will not be arrogant. We will be thinking of Jesus Christ and not concentrating on ourselves. The Holy Spirit will see to it! When we are arrogant, we aren't able to forgive others. So, we have to learn by the power of the Holy Spirit and concentrate on the Lord Jesus Christ's thoughts.

Philippians 4:8
Finally, brothers,
whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,
whatever is commendable, if
there is any excellence, if
there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.



We can look to Jesus as the One Who is responsible for our forgiveness. He paid the price for our sins. He was treated unjustly. Through it all, Jesus had the greatest humility and was the most gentle person. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and God's thinking found in Scripture, He was able to forgive those who treated Him badly. We have that same power and can use the same thinking! Let's focus on Jesus Christ, His thinking, and depend on the Holy Spirit to make us gentle, humble, and forgiving.



Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, **gentleness** and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.



1 Peter 3:14-15 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify [set apart] Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with **gentleness** and reverence;



More Scriptures on God's **gentleness**.

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

Matthew 11:29-30 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am **gentle** and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Titus 3:1-2 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be peaceable, **gentle**, showing every consideration for all men.

James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle**, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

