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TRY A LITTLE KINDNESS

There is precious little doubt that Glen Campbell was a gifted guitar player. But he may be best known as a crooner of country cross-over "hit" songs, like "Wichita Lineman" and "By The Time I Get To Phoenix". Recently, while listening to YouTube, a song that I hadn't heard in a quite some time was played. It was yet another of one of those "cross over" songs sung by Campbell, the title of the song was "Try A Little Kindness". Paying closer attention now to the lyrics than I did when it first came out. The song, written by Curt Sapaugh and Bobby Austin conveys a simple message of helping others along life's pathway. "If you see your bother standing by the road with a heavy load from the seeds he sowed and if you see your sister falling by the way, just stop and say you're going the wrong way. You got to try a little kindness, yes show a little kindness. Yes shine your light for everyone to see..."



the fullness of kindness is to consider some synonyms for the word. Words like tenderness, humaneness and benevolence. In short, treat people in the same way you would want to be treated. The Bible definition of kindness seeks to convey a sense of deep, compassionate direction toward others, reflecting the love, care and compassion that God has. Therefore, it is little wonder why it is listed as part of the "fruit of the Spirit."

"Therefore however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

What is so unique about the "golden rule" as set forth by Jesus, is that it is a positive approach to life. In many cultures and religions there exists a variation to the "golden rule". That being "do not do to others what you would not want done to you". What Jesus set forth is positive inasmuch as it is an active command that requires one seek out the good for others. Not just being content that no harm befall another, but a call for active compassion and kindness.

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." (Galatians 6:10)

As Paul writes to the brethren in Colossae he openly emboldens them to *"put on a heart of compassions, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."* (3:12) That same challenge reaches to us today. But it is much more than a challenge, it is that which has been directed to us by God. After all when we put on Christ in the waters of baptism we in essence, *"...put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth."* (Ephesians 4:23) Try a little kindness. (wbe)

Paul, as he began his second epistle to the brethren in Corinth as well spoke about utilizing kindness along life's pathway. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."* (1:3-4) Inasmuch as we have been comforted by God during our difficulties in life, we recognize others need comfort as well. We are called to pay that comfort forward, to apply trying a little kindness.

Kindness is defined as "The quality or state of being kind; treating people with kindness and respect; a kind deed : favor; they did me a great kindness." Perhaps a better way to grasp