

## His Kind Intention

**Ephesians 1:5 In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,**

**Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

This is a wonderful grouping of words by the Holy Spirit.

It glorifies God in so many ways.

His Love, His Glory, His Kindness and His Grace!

Then, His actions: He predestinated us; He adopted us; He freely bestowed on us His Grace.

He did all these blessings through His Son, Jesus the Christ.

He did all these things for Himself. This is the running theme through the whole Bible. This is the whole story of Jesus Christ. The whole Bible is a record of all that God does and is doing for the human race for His Glory.

Note what Jesus declared in His Prayer in John 17:

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**John 17:1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; (crucifixion for the judgment of all the sins of the world) glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, (friends, we are here to glorify God the Father and God the Son in the Power of God the Holy Spirit).**

**John 17:2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.**

**John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (The only one).**

**John 17:4 I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do (sinless life, crucifixion).**

**John 17:5 Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, (Resurrection) with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

**John 17:6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me,**

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**and they have kept Your word** (kept the gospel of faith alone in Christ alone).

**John 17:7 Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You;**

**John 17:8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.**

Ephesians 1:4-6 **In love** We have studied the Love of God (see Ephesians PDF file for December 8, 2019) and the most remarkable thing about the Love of God is that this is the very same love God the Holy Spirit pours into every believer when they are empowered by the Holy Spirit by faith.

**He predestined** you can get this on pdf file in Ephesians on the internet (see Ephesians PDF file for March 8, 2020)

**us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself**, the study of adoption is also available in pdf file (see Ephesians PDF file for April 19, 2020).

**according to the kind intention of His will ,**

Here I had to spend some time in prayer—my dilemma: get through the study of Ephesians or teach the riches that are in it? For example, do we pause here and learn of the *kindness of God*? And as I went through some

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of the passages it became clear that you should be ever mindful of the Kindness of God.

The first thing we need to know about the Kindness from God is the question: are you benefited by His Kindness?

We saw this with the Love from God. Are you benefited by His Love? His love saw the need of the human race, under penalty of sin and unrighteous. So, God met our needs by sending His Son to the cross to bear the judgment for all sins and He imputed His perfect righteousness to anyone, everyone, who believed in Jesus as their Savior. So, while loved, not everyone benefits from His love because not everyone believes in Jesus as their Savior. So it is with His Kindness, everyone is given His Kindness, but not everyone is benefited by the Kindness of God.

**Romans 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? (But as we see in verse 5 not everyone is benefited by the Kindness of God).**

**Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,**

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## ***Kindness***

1. Everyone who rejects the Love and Kindness of God will stand before Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment after the Millennium, where they will not be judged for sins—Jesus Christ bore that judgment on the cross—but for refusing the Love and Kindness of God, that is in refusing to believe in His Son, whom He has graciously sent to bear the judgment of all sins on the cross. (Rev. 20:11-15)
2. Secondly: What is Kindness? A difficult word to define. There are several Hebrew and Greek words in the Old Testament and New Testament used for the Kindness of God. People often have contempt for kindness or think lightly of kindness (Rom 2:4). This means that many people, including Christians do not want to ‘be kind’ except to poor helpless animals or a very old person who needs help. But people, Kindness is not weakness but an indication of inner strength. Kindness is a thought and action in order to fulfill a purpose or a desired goal.

Kindness is an action from God marked by, a pleasant disposition, and concern and consideration for others. The Kindness of God is motivated by His love. God loves and His Love sees a need. And out of His Kindness He meets that need. The actions of the Kindness of God are *useful or edifying*. Kindness is neither earned nor deserved. God’s Love is Kind! And when you are empowered by the Holy Spirit by faith, your love will also be kind. It is my hope that when we have finished this brief study on the Kindness of God that you are overwhelmed with the Kindness of God.

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3. Kindness is directed toward others, and is therefore a ‘relational’ word. A study of the Greek words for kindness will show that kindness refers specifically to a response to the circumstances of others and in most cases that relationship is one of conflict, adversity, stress or sadness or to some handicap. Therefore, in the Old Testament and in the New Testament we are never said to be ‘kind’ to God but God is said to be kind to us all through His Word.
4. The definitive passage on the Kindness of God is found in Psalm 136 where it occurs some 26 times. It tells us that God’s Kindness and Love are eternal. This is such a beautiful and informative chapter, letting us know that God’s kindness and faithfulness are the foundation of His Character and His actions.

**Psalm 136:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**

Let’s pause a moment on ‘lovingkindness’ and not just ‘kindness.’ The King James inserts the word ‘mercy’ for kindness. In the NIV – love. Other translations: ‘faithful love,’ ‘steadfast love,’ ‘loving devotion,’ ‘gracious love,’ ‘loyal love’ and simply ‘kindness.’ All of these are attempts to translate the rich Hebrew word ‘*chesed*.’ Entire books are written on this one Hebrew word. From the Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament: “a masculine noun indicating kindness, loving kindness, mercy, goodness, faithfulness, love, and acts of kindness.” Now you try to come up with one word that involves all of these virtues. That lexicon goes on to say: “This aspect of God is one of several important features of His character:

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truth; faithfulness; mercy; steadfastness; justice; righteousness; goodness.”

***Verses 1-3 Give thanks to God:***

**Psalm 136:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**  
(Here we learn that God’s kindness is everlasting or eternal.)

**Psalm 136:2 Give thanks to the God of gods, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**  
(Unequaled as God).

**Psalm 136:3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**

***Verses 4-9 Wondrous acts of creation:***

**Psalm 136:4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;**

**Psalm 136:5 To Him who made the heavens with skill, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;**

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**Psalm 136:6 To Him who spread out the earth above the waters, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;**

**Psalm 136:7 To Him who made *the* great lights, For His lovingkindness is everlasting:**

**Psalm 136:8 The sun to rule by day, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,**

**Psalm 136:9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**

*Verses 10-15 His Kindness in delivering His people from the powerful Egyptians:*

**Psalm 136:10 To Him who smote the Egyptians in their firstborn, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,**

**Psalm 136:11 And brought Israel out from their midst, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,**

**Psalm 136:12 With a strong hand and an outstretched arm, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**



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**Psalm 136:13 To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,**

**Psalm 136:14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;**

**Psalm 136:15 But He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**

*Verses 16-26 The great acts for His people demonstrate His Kindness:*

**Psalm 136:16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;**

**Psalm 136:17 To Him who smote great kings, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,**

**Psalm 136:18 And slew mighty kings, For His lovingkindness is everlasting:**

**Psalm 136:19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,**

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**20 And Og, king of Bashan, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,**

**Psalm 136:21 And gave their land as a heritage, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,**

**Psalm 136:22 Even a heritage to Israel His servant, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**

**Psalm 136:23 Who remembered us in our low estate, (When His kindness is most needed He is faithful to extend His kindness) For His lovingkindness is everlasting,**

**Psalm 136:24 And has rescued us from our adversaries, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;**

**Psalm 136:25 Who gives food to all flesh, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**

**Psalm 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**

5. Ways to think of the Kindness of God or the richness of His Kindness.

We are saved by the Kindness of Jesus Christ Titus 3:4-7.

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Described as Marvelous Psalm 31:21; Psalm 17:7.

Described as Everlasting Isaiah 54:8; Psalm 118:2.

Described as Great toward us Psalm 117:2.

Described as Good Psalm 69:16.

Described as Precious Psalm 36:7.

We know God by His Kindness Psalm 107:43.

Know that the Kindness of God is related to His Faithfulness  
Psalm 89:33.

We are to think continuously on His Kindness Psalm 48:9.

Kindness of God always comes through His Son Eph. 2:7.

God may become angry at us for a while, but His everlasting  
Kindness moves Him to show compassion Isaiah 54:8.

Kindness of God is never utterly removed from believers Isaiah  
54:10.

We are to tell others of His Kindness Psalm 92:2; Isaiah 63:7;  
Psalm 40:10.

We should be ever mindful of His Kindness Psalm 48:7 Psalm 26:3.

His Kindness is to be regarded as Precious Psalm 36:7.

Even when we fail, God is Kind toward us Nehemiah 9:17.

We are drawn to God by His Kindness Romans 2:4-5 and  
Jeremiah 31:3

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We will receive His Kindness for all eternity Ephesians 2:6-7.

God crowns the believer with His Kindness Psalm 103:4.

We belong to God in His perfect Righteousness and Kindness Hosea 2:19.

We are preserved by the Kindness of God Psalm 40:11.

6. (Making this a separate line of thought on the Kindness of God). We are to pray to God in regards to His Kindness.

Pray to be comforted by His Kindness.

**Psalm 119:76 O may Your lovingkindness comfort me, According to Your word to Your servant.**

Pray that He would Revive you according to your lovingkindness

**Psalm 119:88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.**

People, you want to enrich your prayer life? You want your prayers to be personal between you and God? Then pray to Him according to His essence, His attributes, His character. Let Him know that you know Him, you know He is kind and compassionate. And appeal to Him on the basis of His kindness, not because you earn or deserve Him to comfort you or revive you in the difficulties of your life. Which sounds better: “O God help me” or “O God, may your lovingkindness comfort me this day, this night, through this battle?”

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Appeal to Him in your prayer life based on who and what He is, not just on your needs.

Pray that God will be gracious to you according to His Kindness.

**Psalm 51:1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.**

How about this prayer? This is prayed by David after Nathan had awakened David to what he had done when he made love to Bathsheba who was married to someone else. He prays that God will be gracious to him, according to God's Kindness, not because he deserved God's grace.

Pray that He will hear your prayers by His Kindness.

**Psalm 119:149 Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your ordinances.**

Have you ever thought, why should God hear my prayers? Well, don't be occupied with yourself. This is why some people don't even pray, I am not worthy to pray to God. Oh, people pray that He will listen to your prayers because He is Lovingkindness.

Pray He will answer you according to His Kindness. Not just hear your prayers but answer them. Why should God answer your prayers?

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**Psalm 69:16 Answer me, O Lord, for Your lovingkindness is good; According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me,**

Pray for the continuance of His kindness toward you.

**Psalm 36:10 O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.**

Ok, today in the Church Age this refers to those who walk by the Holy Spirit. When you truly hurt, you want so much for His Kindness to continue...well, let Him know, tell Him in your prayers. Make your prayers personal and dynamic.

This next one is very important in your prayer life:

Give thanks and praise for His Kindness

**Isaiah 63:7 I shall make mention of the lovingkindnesses of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, According to all that the Lord has granted us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which He has granted them according to His compassion And according to the abundance of His lovingkindnesses.**

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People, I hope when you thank God or praise Him in your prayers, that you relate your thanksgiving and praise not just to what He has done for you but to the character of God that has blessed you.

**Psalm 138:2 I will bow down toward Your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.**

Give thanks to God, not only for what He has done in your life but for His kindness and faithfulness to His very name.

**Psalm 31:21 Blessed be the Lord, For He has made marvelous His lovingkindness to me in a besieged city.**

Each day when it is over and not you nor anyone in your family has contracted Covid19, do you thank Him? Praise Him? Do you thank Him for His marvelous Kindness? This coronavirus is our besieged city.

**Psalm 63:3; Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You.**

How about this praise of God's Kindness? And people, we will receive His Kindness for all eternity.

We can pray for His Kindness in times of trouble.

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**Psalm 42:8 The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; And His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the God of my life.**

Oh, people, I pray that you are sensing how personal, how humble, how marvelous your prayers can be to God, where you sit, and think and pray to Him on personal knowledge of His attributes, of all that He is! In Psalm 63:3 we heard a prayer where God's lovingkindness is better than life itself, and here we hear a prayer where God is his life. Is God your life? Is His kindness better than life itself?

Pray that He will come to your aid by showing His Kindness.

**Psalm 17:7 Wondrously show Your lovingkindness, O Savior of those who take refuge at Your right hand From those who rise up *against them*.**

Here he is asking not just for the lovingkindness of God but that He reveal it wondrously. Do you have that kind of relationship with God? You can and you will...it may take some time but as you grow in His word and pray often to Him according to all that He is, you will be bold in your prayers.

Now here is one that is important if you love and care about others. We can pray for God to show kindness to others.



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**Genesis 24:12 He said, “O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham.**

I know you have prayed for others, but have you ever prayed that God would show His lovingkindness to another: your children, your parents, grandparents, someone you love and respect. Then ask God to bestow His kindness on them.

**2 Samuel 2:6 Now may the Lord show lovingkindness and truth to you; and I also will show this goodness to you, because you have done this thing.**

Husbands have you ever prayed that God would show His lovingkindness toward your wife? And wives have you ever prayed for God to show lovingkindness to your husband. Oh, people we cut ourselves so short by not increasing the richness of our prayers.

We should pray for His kindness each day.

**Psalm 143:8 Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul.**

Those of you, who make it a point to pray every day, ask God to show you His lovingkindness—every day!! He does not grow tired of

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hearing that prayer over and over and we certainly will not grow tired of His lovingkindness.

In difficult times we can pray that God will show His Kindness.

**Psalm 25:6 Remember, O Lord, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, For they have been from of old.**

Ok, maybe you or someone in your family has coronavirus. How are you going to ask God to come to your or their aid? Appeal to Him based on who He is—how He has acted through all history...Old Testament or Church Age. Appeal to Him based on His compassion, His lovingkindness that He has revealed all through history.

**Psalm 89:49 Where are Your former lovingkindnesses, O Lord, Which You swore to David in Your faithfulness?**

Here is another dimension of your prayers: first the writer includes past history, then he includes the lovingkindness of God along with His Faithfulness. Please remember in your prayers that God's lovingkindness often goes with His faithfulness, His compassion, His truth, and His righteousness. Come into contact with your need to pray along with the appropriate attributes of God.

And then never forget that the Kindness of God is poured through us by the power of His Holy Spirit, it is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

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**Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

Heavenly Father, I pray that you will bestow your Lovingkindness of all those listening to this study, that they may know in their life that you are a God of compassion and Lovingkindness.