

Be Kind

Kind in the Greek=goodness

Jerry Bridges says kindness=sincere desire for the happiness of others. Goodness=activity calculated to advance that happiness.

Kindness involves encouraging others through (Ro. 12:7-8 gifts):

Serving=helping others (Ph. 2:7, Mt. 20:28)

- *Be prepared
- *Develop your prayer life
- *Don't withhold
- *Remember: serving can be wearisome

Mercy=helping the hurting (Ja. 1:27)

- *Be an avid listener
- *Develop a "generous eye"
- * Be direct

Giving=distribute one's own money to others without thought of return or gain (Lk. 6:30-38)

- *Be bold
- *Be generous

APPLICATION:

How did each of these women demonstrate concern for others and later experience God's blessing?

- 1. The widow of Zarephath (1 Ki. 17:7-24)**
- 2. The Shunammite woman (2 Ki. 4:8-37)**
- 3. Dorcas (Ac. 9:36-42)**

Consider the people among whom you live. Are there poor or needy who need your help? What specific steps can you take to help them within the next week?

There are five hindrances to being kind:

- a) Anger (Ja. 4:6-10)

- b) Bitterness/resentment (Ep. 4:31-32, Is. 43:18)

- c) Negativism/criticism (1 Cor. 13:7, Ph. 4:8)

- d) Nagging (Ps. 141:3)

- e) Self-pity; complaining (1 Thess. 5:18)