

6. Respond to Challenges with Joy and Patience

Trials during the holidays can refine your character and witness. Joy and patience become a testimony of God's strength in you.

James 1:2 (NKJV) My brethren, **count it all joy when you fall** into various trials, **James 1:3 (NKJV)** **knowing** that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Philippians 4:4 (NKJV) **Rejoice** in the Lord **always**. **Again** I will say, **rejoice!**

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV) But **those who wait on the Lord** shall **renew their strength**; They shall **mount up** with wings like eagles, They shall **run and not be weary**, They shall **walk and not faint**.

7. Forgive Quickly and Freely

**Forgiveness keeps your heart in the right place
and reflects the heart of Christ.**

Matthew 18:21-22 (NKJV) Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, **how often** shall my brother sin against me, and I **forgive him**? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to **seventy times seven**."

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV) And be **kind** to one another, **tenderhearted**, **forgiving** one another, even **as God in Christ forgave you**.

Matthew 6:14 (NKJV) "For **if you forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.



Relational Peace Through His Amazing Grace

Saturday-Sunday, November 30 – December 1, 2024

Foundation Texts:

John 3:16 (NKJV) For **God so loved the world** that **He gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that **not of yourselves**; it is **the gift of God**,

Ephesians 2:9 (NKJV) **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) For **we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them**.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV) But the **fruit of the Spirit** is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

Galatians 5:24 (NKJV) And **those who are Christ's** have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**.

Galatians 5:25 (NKJV) **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit**.

"The fruit of the Spirit is the overflow of a life fully surrendered to God."
– Charles Stanley

"You can't manufacture the fruit of the Spirit; it's produced when you remain connected to the vine." – Rick Warren

God's Amazing Grace in Action

1. Love Unconditionally

We always have an opportunity to reflect God's unconditional love, even when it's difficult. Love is not dependent on others' behavior but on God's command.

John 13:34 (NKJV) A **new commandment** I give to you, that **you love one another**; as I **have loved you**, that you also love one another.

1 Corinthians 13:7 (NLT) Love never gives up, never loses faith, is **always hopeful**, and **endures** through every circumstance.

"Loving others unconditionally is the greatest evidence of the power of God in our lives." – Francis Chan

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 16:14 (NKJV) Let **all that you do** be done with love.

2. Be a Witness Through Actions, Not Just Words

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

John 13:35 (NKJV) By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV) And **whatever you do** in word or deed, **do all** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

3. Be Led by the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is your helper and guide, equipping you with wisdom and power to respond in love and patience.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) But **you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

"The Holy Spirit is not a mere helper; He is the enabler for every work of God in your life." – Watchman Nee

1 John 4:4 (NKJV) You are of God, little children, and **have overcome** them, because **He who is in you is greater** than **he who is in the world**.

John 14:26 (NKJV) But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you** all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all things that I said to you.

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV) I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and **you shall not fulfill** the lust of the flesh.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) For **God has not given us a spirit of fear**, but of **power** and of **love** and of a **sound mind**.

4. Pursue Peace Actively

Peace is a fruit of the Spirit and requires intentional effort to sow it into relationships, even during conflicts.

Matthew 5:9 (NKJV) **Blessed** are the **peacemakers**, For they shall be called sons of God.

Romans 12:18 (NKJV) If it is possible, as much as **depends on you**, **live peaceably** with all men.

Psalms 34:14 (NKJV) **Depart from evil** and **do good**; **Seek peace** and **pursue it**.

5. Be Compassionate and Aware of Others' Needs

Christmas is a season of giving; being sensitive to others' struggles can open doors for ministry and healing.

Ephesians 5:15 (NLT) **So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.**

Ephesians 5:16 (NLT) **Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.**

Ephesians 5:17 (NLT) **Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.**

Philippians 2:4 (NKJV) Let **each of you** look out not **only for his own interests**, but also **for the interests of others**.

Galatians 6:2 (NKJV) **Bear one another's burdens**, and so **fulfill the law of Christ**.

Proverbs 19:17 (NKJV) **He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord**, And **He will pay back what he has given**.