

A Compassionate God

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.(PSA103:13) Compassion, what is it? What does it mean in your life? Did your Christian life have anything do with your feelings of compassion towards others? Compassion literally means "to suffer together." it is defined as the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering. Compassion related to kindness and sympathy but there is something deeper, even more powerful in its meaning. A deep awareness and sympathy of sufferings of another. Humane quality of understanding the suffering of others and wanting to do something about it. And it is a willingness and an urge to assist them. "*So be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate*"(LUK 6:36) "*Put on therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and beloved, with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience*"(COL3:12) True compassion changes the way we live. When we feel true compassion, we will be moved inwardly. Having empathy; to have one's heart reach out toward the needs of others. To be compassionate, to pity; to be kind-hearted. It means to be tender-hearted; to be sensitive and affectionate, to be moved with tender feelings over the pain and sufferings of others. In Job 6:1-30 we are told how compassion can go beyond words. Job said that his friend Eliphaz's advice was like eating the tasteless white of an egg. This shows us how ill-advised counsel is distasteful when someone is going through a severe trial. Many times they often need compassion more than an advice. In Mark 2:1-12, the paralytic's need and how it moved his friends to action. The action they took was to bring their friend to Jesus. Compassion fulfils the law of Christ.(GAL6:2) The parable of the Good Samaritan is found in Luke 10:25-37. Jesus tells that a man was once travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by thieves who stole his clothes and wounded him, leaving him half-dead. A priest came past, but although he saw the man, he passed by on the other side of the road. Then a Levite, came past and looked at the poor man, but he, too, walked on by on the other side of the road. But then a Samaritan passed, and when he saw the man in need of help, he had compassion and he went to him and bound up his wounds with oil and wine. Then he put the man on his horse and led him to an inn, where he looked after the man. The next day, the Samaritan has to leave the inn, but he gives the innkeeper two pence and asks him to look after the wounded man. He also says that if the innkeeper needs to spend more money on looking after the man, the Samaritan will repay him when he returns. Jesus asks which of these was the true neighbor of the man who was attacked by thieves? Answer is the man who showed mercy and helped him in his time of need. He instructs his followers to follow Samaritan's example and help any person, regardless of their tribe or ethnic group, if they need a stranger's help. Samaritans and Jews despised each other; Samaritan helps the injured man. Jesus' parable is for Christianity as a whole? Adam, of course, was cast out of Paradise and into the world following the Fall of Man. The thieves who attack the man represent hostile forces in the world. The priest who passes by man in need represents the Law, while Levite represents prophets; but the Samaritan represents Christ. The inn to which the Samaritan takes the wounded man represents the Church, Samaritan promises he will return represents Jesus' Second Coming. In Luke 7:13 we read of the widow whose son had died "when the Lord saw her, he had compassion and said unto her, Weep not." The Lord had compassion as He assured her. He saw woman and had compassion on her. it was" the Lord" who saw her that she was truly heartbroken, He had compassion on her who spoke and gave assurance. He was filled with concern. We see that our Lord God is very interested in our affairs. Our Lord God is a God of compassion. This extends to the entire human race, which He effected deliverance by giving up His own Son to the death of the cross. This was done in order to save us from sin, with its consequences. It is seen in that Jesus Christ died for the sins of all mankind. The measure of compassionate love in your heart is the measure of the presence of God in your heart. We are commanded to have compassion.(2CO1:3-4) Your heart is like a dam that the compassionate love of God must pass through, behind you is a mighty river, the Holy Spirit of God. In front of you there is a dry riverbed, people thirsting for love and to know God. When you open one of your gates and let a river of compassion flow toward one of those people, the turbine in your heart generates life energy called Love. For each gate you open, a river flows towards another person.(JOH7:38) It is so easy to turn off the flow of compassion, a little pride, selfishness, envy, un-forgiveness, fear; and the dam is closed, compassion is stopped. Compassion must flow. When you stop the river of compassion the whole dam shuts down. Don't let an offence stop the river of life from flowing through you. Therefore, all who are Christians must necessarily cultivate character compassion and show mercy. True compassion will have a person deny himself so he can help others in their needs and sufferings. As people impart and assist others, they are drawn together. People being united can be done by compassion - reaching out to help each other. Christians need to move into the realm of constant praying in compassion all of the time for the members of our body. This will cause compassion to flow through the people, and God's presence will fill the people's hearts. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit will unite our hearts. When we experience compassionate, joy is a by-product. "*Finally, be you all, live in harmony with one another; be compassionate and humble, love as brethren*"(1PE3:8) There are many people who have both physical and spiritual needs you can meet. This can be done by yourself or with others who also are concerned to an action that is compassionate. Think of a person you know who is in need. 1. Pray specifically to become a person of greater compassionate love. 2. Seek to be a Good Samaritan to the person in need that you identified. Remember "*Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not*"(LAM3:22)