

God is always ready to help us and expects us to help others.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness, goodness**, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

How do we develop these character qualities? God uses a process that involves a partnership with us and also the time to grow. It requires partnership. The apostle Paul describes this partnership in Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV), where he says "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling," but then he also says, "for it is God who works in you"

It's important to note that Paul doesn't say, "Work for your salvation." The Bible clearly teaches we don't have to work for our salvation. It is a free gift of God's grace.

We're to make the most of what we've been given. God provides the power for our spiritual growth. God also plants that desire in our hearts to flip the switch.

There's no such thing as instant spiritual maturity; it takes time for spiritual fruit to ripen in your life. God wants to produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life, so partner with God on your spiritual growth and watch what develops over time.

Prayer: Lord, help me to be a productive, fruitful disciple who cooperates with your plan. Use your Word to change the way I think. Send your Holy Spirit to guide me at all times. Help me respond to difficult people and unpleasant situations in accordance with your will. Amen.