

## COMPASSION

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, **“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**”~Acts 20:35 (NKJV)

Paul is saying to accept people as they are for God does. Love them—share with them from an open heart—drawing forth and giving from the wealth of God’s grace and mercy that He has deposited in you. This verse indicates that the “giver” takes on the character of Christ, whose nature is to give. Jesus didn’t say it would be more natural or easier to give than to receive. What He did say, was that it would be more blessed. This verse refers to both our time and money.

Compassion is letting God work through you to give others hope—and is released through you in love and mercy. Compassion is not wrinkling your nose, rolling your eyes or moving out of line when you discover the dirty and foul smelling homeless person standing in line behind you who only has the price for a cup of coffee and the need to rest and get warm.

Compassion is buying that person a meal and giving the extra bonus—a smile straight from the heart—God’s reflective smile that says, “You have value and you are loved!” And because of the Grace of God that we have received, we can then reach out as a “giver” and bless others. God smiles upon those thoughtful acts of kindness.

Compassionate acts can have far reaching effects and often changes lives. When life needs are not met in appropriate and effective ways, mental anguish occurs and, as we have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, (the Comforter, the Helper, the resident Counselor), we can become the hands, feet and love of God to help meet their needs and bring comfort to their hearts. We can do this in physical, mental and spiritual ways. These acts of love and mercy are like stones thrown into a lake. First the big splash, then the circle of ripples and then the changes. Let your life reflect the pure Light of God’s sweet and unconditional love. Purpose and practice being a “giver!”

### **PRAYER:**

Father, help us to be “Givers” always. To show the love of God that reaches out to the homeless, the suffering, the lost; and to our greatest gift of all, our children. Let us remember the grace and mercy that you pour out upon us and let us give the same to others. Let compassion work its wonders in the lives of those we come in contact with and let us rejoice together in positive changes in their lives. Daily fill us up with your riches that we may pour out unto others! Amen