

# KINDNESS AND GOODNESS

Let us consider an attribute of Abba's personality called kindness. As I ponder the kindness of Abba, I find that kindness and goodness are very closely related. Kindness is an action, a deed. We say that someone is kind as we see them doing kind things to another. A kindly soul is one who does no harm but much good. Kindness is at its most profound when there is a need. Of course we can do many kind things without knowing of the needs of others but when guided by the Holy Spirit who knows the needs we are led into acts of kindness. Often I have heard someone say just the right thing, without knowing that they were meeting a specific need – for that person – at that time. What a wonderful feeling when we realize that Abba has flowed through us in that way.

Kindness is action, deeds which flow out of goodness. Because we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, by Abba Himself, we have a wellspring of goodness in us. That wellspring of goodness energizes and inspires deeds of kindness. True goodness lies only in Abba. Jesus told us, "Only God is good". Some may be offended by this. They will say, "I know many good people in the world. They are always kind." Are they? I doubt it! People in the world do many things with hidden motives, hidden agenda (as do Christians, of course). Some of their deeds may be truly kind, coming from a selfless reservoir of goodness but certainly not all. I will return to this topic later.

One of my favorite teachers is Bob Mumford. He teaches eloquently about Agape as a straight arrow coming directly from the giver to the receiver with **NOTHING** demanded in return. Other loves have a 'hook'. It seems to be other oriented but the sender is expecting some gratification, some response, some return. The 'kindly deed' was not entirely for the other. It was partly for the sender. That is not Agape. That is not Abba.

My stipulation is that the true kindness that flows from Abba consists of actions which are absolutely selfless. They pour forth from an infinite reservoir of goodness residing as a basic component of the personality of the awesome Creator, Omnipotent, Father, our Abba (Daddy). You may remonstrate, "Who can live like that"? My answer is, "Only Abba". Remember, this entire writing is about the personality of Abba, not you, not me. The kindness which literally rains on us all over the earth, day after day, year after year, comes out of an endless reservoir of goodness existing in our Lord, our Abba. Abba is always selfless. Abba is always good.

Let me digress briefly. Many view the earth as full of toil, trouble, evil, and pain. Indeed, because of sin, ignorance, selfishness, and bad choices, there is a lot of pain and sorrow. However, for most of us, most of our lives are not like that. Most of us, most of the time are surrounded by friends and family who love us, care for us, and bring pleasure and happiness. Pain and trouble make the most noise but not the most time. I am fully convinced that if we were more isolated from the mass media, our lives would be much more spiritually balance. Life is FULL of pleasure, kindness, and goodness. Mass media live and thrive on stress, disaster, violence, and pain. They spew forth these things 24 hours a day and most of the things we see and hear do not, should not, impact our lives at all. We tend to adsorb, even absorb, the pain of others when, spiritually, we have no right to do so. Abba has apportioned out pain and joy to us. He proscribes a balance. It is folly for us to destroy that balance by reaching around the world to grab the pain of a stranger when we will never be exposed to the joys and goodness that have also been a part of that stranger's life. As things are going well for us, Abba is pouring kind actions out of His goodness. How much more does He pour out kindness from His goodness when there are troubles. There is a song which has a lyric, "He's not good just once in awhile, He's good all the time." Another says, "The God on the mountain is still God in the valleys". Someone may say, "But what if our trouble comes from sin"? Well, I suspect most trouble comes from sin. Their view seems to be that when we break His rules He is punishing, vindictive, and angry. No! When any child of His walks out from under Abba's umbrella of protection Abba's every thought and action is to bring His child back to the protection of His embrace. Abba's every action, though sometimes disciplinary and unpleasant to the flesh, is to restore intimacy and fellowship. His work toward us is kind and good because Abba truly loves us, and He truly is kind and good.

What about those who do not know Abba? Are they ever kind? Of course they are. Where ever did we get the idea that God can flow through His children only? Scripture, especially the Old Testament, has many accounts of God initiating the actions of people who did not know Him. All Agape is from and through Abba. All fully selfless acts of kindness flow from the goodness of Abba. He is kind! He is good! No matter what some may say. No matter what some may teach. Abba is kind to all people, in all situations, at all times. Abba is totally good. In Him you will never find badness! This just the way Abba is!

There is another thing about Abba and how He reveals Himself that impresses me almost every day. I live in the beautiful Black Hills of South

Dakota. We regularly have some of the most glorious sunsets I have ever seen and I have traveled extensively. Why? Why is there so much beauty all around us? Is it useful? Does it have a practical purpose? One year my wife, Lavon, and I traveled to the colors in the northeastern United States. We drove across Wisconsin, Michigan, Canada, New York, and then toured Vermont and New Hampshire. It was early October. Our beauty sensors saturated and stayed on overload for days and days. Adjectives are not adequate for what we saw. Why? Why did Abba create such beauty and then equip us so we could see and enjoy it? There are surely many reasons but one reason is that beauty is a kindness from Abba. You can extend this notion logically for yourself to all senses, not just sight. The taste of a favorite food, wonderful aromas wafting past (think bread baking here), your favorite music. All these things and many more broadcast the kindness of our loving Abba. This is a kindness that flows forth to all people everywhere, day after day, century after century, all over the globe. Surely I have only touched lightly on this but you, in your meditations can expand, amplify, and make this your own.

Abba is not just 'very good'. He is totally good and out of this vast abundance of goodness, kindness radiates outward to all. Unfortunately it is only Abba's children who can appreciate and enjoy the true source and even many of His children 'miss it'.

**ABBA IS GOOD !**

**ABBA IS KIND!**