

Series: Little Steps That Make A Huge Difference In A Christian's Life!

Have you ever had little or simple things transform your life or make a big difference?

Practical Steps To Share Goodness Immediately!

Practical and powerful ways in which we outflow good works or “produce fruit” right now! No excuses will work!

John 15:8 (NLT) ⁸ **When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.**

1. Good Flows From You To Others Through Love, Grace and Truth!

Love is good. Love is a choice, a perspective, a decision, not necessarily a feeling.

Matthew 22:37–39 (NLT) ³⁷ Jesus replied, “**You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.**” ³⁸ **This is the first and greatest commandment.** ³⁹ **A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**

The foundation of Christians loving people is, God loved us first and it’s a command. Further, if we know God, we can love, because God is love!

1 John 4:8 (NLT) ⁸ But anyone who **does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

1 John 4:19-21 (NLT) ¹⁹ **We love each other because he loved us first.**

²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, **that person is a liar**; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also **love their fellow believers.**

Description of How Real Love Acts

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NLT) ⁴ Love is **patient and kind.** Love is **not jealous or boastful or proud** ⁵ **or rude.** It does **not demand its own way.** It is **not irritable,** and it **keeps no record of being wronged.** ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ **Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.**

Love Does Not Mean We Allow or Ignore Sin In People’s Life. John 1:14 tells us Jesus came in grace and truth. He came giving unmerited favor and blessings that we could not earn, yet He did not withhold the truth.

John 1:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

We Received Grace and So We Give Grace to Others!

Ephesians 2:8 (NLT) ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Love! ...With Grace and Truth

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (NLT) ¹³ Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. ¹⁴ And do everything with love.

2. Good Flows From You To Others By Service!

John 13:1; 4-9;12–17 (NLT) *Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet*

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

⁶ When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

⁸ "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

⁹ Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? ¹³ You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

Matthew 10:42 (NLT) ⁴² And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

1 Peter 4:9 (NIV) ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Galatians 5:13 (NLT) ¹³ For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Serve others in love no matter who you are, even Jesus did!

3. Good Flows From You To Others Through Words – Encouragement, Guidance, & Testimony!

a. Offer Words of Encouragement

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT) ¹¹ So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Hebrews 10:23–25 (NLT) ²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) ²⁹ Don't use foul or abusive language (unwholesome word). Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Proverbs 18:21 (NLT) ²¹ The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

Proverbs 15:1 (NLT) ¹ A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.

Matthew 12:36–37 (NLT) ³⁶ And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. ³⁷ The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.”

Matthew 12:36–37 (NASB95) careless word

Matthew 12:36–37 (NIV) empty word

Argos ὀργός

pr. inactive, unemployed, Mt. 20:3, 6; idle, averse from labor, 1 Tim. 5:13; Tit. 1:12; met. 2 Pet. 1:8; unprofitable, hollow, or by impl., injurious, Mt. 12:36; Jas. 2:20*

- Take care that your words are NOT Injurious!
- Take care that your words are NOT wasteful!
- Take care that your words ARE encouraging!

b. Offer Words of Guidance

(especially guiding peoples thoughts to God, His Word, His Promises and His Perspective!)

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) ²⁹ Don't use foul or abusive language (unwholesome word). Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

c. Offer Words (of Testimony) That Share What God Has Done or You Believe He Will Do Because of His Promises!

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT) ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

- What you have experienced?
- Knowing God through being born again – believing in Jesus and surrender to Jesus!

4. Good Flows From You To Others Through Specific Ministry & Gifts!

⇒ Gifts

⇒ Niches within the gifts

1 Corinthians 12:7–13 (NLT)

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹ The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said.

¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

One Body with Many Parts

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

Romans 12:6–10 (NLT) ⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Today you can treat people with love, serve them, offer positive words; as well as study and move into your ministry gifts!

Prayer Time Study and Questions for Reflection:

- ⇒ Do we treat people with love? Especially believers?
- ⇒ Do we see ourselves as servants?
- ⇒ Analyze yours words – encouraging?, guiding toward God?, testimony oriented?, or negative?

- ⇒ Are you moving into your ministry gifts and niches?
- ⇒ Every Christian can do these things!