

Living The Word Devotionals



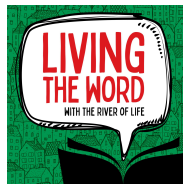
Kindness In Rejoicing & Weeping



By Katie Cooper

Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

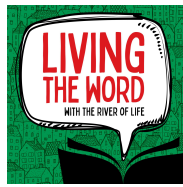
This month we have been looking at Kindness. What does it look like in our lives to have the fruit of kindness growing and active in our life as followers of Christ. Here in Romans 12 Paul is talking about our worship to the Lord as becoming living



sacrifices, giving up seeking what we want from life and learning to know and serve what God wants from our lives here on earth.

This is goal of the Christian that we set ourselves aside and desire the things of God, to love Him and love others. Nestled in this text is verse 15 “*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*” Seems simple enough. Of all people Christians should be masters of empathy. According to Paul those who are in Christ to serve one another even in considering their own emotions. Nothing communicates sincere love for another person more powerfully than recognizing and joining in on their highs and lows. We show love by empathizing with their seasons of celebration and allowing ourselves to feel broken with them in their seasons of heartache.

Jesus modeled this in his own life here on earth. He was deeply moved when Lazarus died, even though he knew Lazarus was about to be raised he saw the pain and sorrow from Mary and others who mourned his death, and he wept with them. Jesus’s ability to empathize with the sufferings and joys of those he was around should give us great comfort as followers. We have a savior who is fully invested in our lives, our triumphs, our stumbling, our laments, and our cries for joy. As followers of Christ, we reflect the empathy of our Lord in being invested in the lives of those around us with compassion and kindness. We have been shown endless amounts of love and mercy and so we ought to give that away liberally to others.



As I said, sound simple enough. I can be happy for those who are celebrating and weep with those who have suffered loss. And most times this will be something that comes naturally to us. But what about when I am in a position to celebrate something God has given to a friend when I have been praying for that something for myself, but God has seemingly not allowed it for my own life? What if I am called to celebrate a job promotion with someone, I felt I was a better fit for? What if I am in a position to comfort a person who has been hurtful to me in the past? This is where the context of this verse shines through Romans 12:1 "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." We offer up our own emotions and put ourselves aside so that we may comfort or rejoice in the moment. In doing so we can know that our savior sees our sacrifice and works through that in our own hearts. This is not a "stuff your own emotions down and get on with it" moment, it's a decision to lay aside our own lives in order to be like Christ.

Make your move Christian.

Let's pray.

