

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." Colossians 3:13-14 KJV



Charity is the action of compassion. It yokes my heart with Christ's compassion. You can't be charitable without compassion. *"Jesus went forth, and...was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, 'I will; be thou clean.'"*

True compassion will move you to give selflessly without a thought of loss. If I remain content and secure in the riches of God's supply in Christ, I will naturally be compassionate towards others. *"Godliness with contentment is great gain. Having food and raiment, therewith be content."* True believers will always feel like billionaires, able to give anything away as they are sure of resupply. The Joy of Giving rests in the knowledge that I can never give away enough to deplete the supply I have in Christ! Even if I give away my body it will be gloriously changed and resupplied to me for eternity. Missionary martyr, Jim Elliot, wrote, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." I do not have the power to keep one thing, but the God to whom all belongs, does! The believer's very *"life is hid with Christ in God."* Paul wrote, *"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that Day."* Compassion is a Christ-like emotion that empowers Christian charity, or as I like to call it, joyous giving. If I have it and do not need it, God obviously intends that I help someone with it. Do not hoard material things! I need not fret about the economy or rising prices. David wrote, *"I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."* God has promised, *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God AND His righteousness and ALL THESE THINGS will be added unto you. God shall supply ALL your NEEDS according to HIS riches."* I ask you, "Who made the gold and diamonds?" If I need them He will make them for me, if necessary. Put on the yoke of charity, Give the Gospel while easing the suffering of needy souls.

Forgiving deeds that others do,
Perfects the Love of God in you,
Joyfully aid another's stress,
Knowing true that God will bless. ~CGP

I only NEED food and raiment. Good health is not even promised. History is replete with God's warriors who were in ill health, or suffered cruel persecution, but served faithfully in spite of it! We become possessive over material wealth and tend to sense great loss without it. If it isn't necessary to life, today, I don't NEED it, because Jesus may return tonight and my excess will only pleasure the wicked. Believers need to demonstrate their faith instead of just proclaiming it! Forgiveness is the first step of compassion. Don't give frivolously, give charitably. In other words, give what is needed; the Gospel, food, and raiment. A cheerful giver is confident in God's promise and infinite resupply. The faithful are obedient by choice and charitable by nature!

"And beside this, giving all diligence, ADD TO YOUR FAITH virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For IF these things be in you, and abound, THEY MAKE YOU that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:5-8 KJV