

Vital Signs are indicators of LIFE...

1. Fruit of the Holy Spirit indicate that a person is spiritually alive.
2. ***The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*** (Gal 5:22-23)
3. Fruit of the Holy Spirit in believer's lives is the result of relationship with and 'abiding' in Christ. (John 15:4)

Kindness (Lovingkindness) – gentleness & goodness towards others, tender, pleasant, good-natured**I. God is always showing kindness...** (God dealing with His people)

1. *This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD. (Jer 9:23-24)*
2. *Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful. He is not easily angered. He is filled with kindness and is eager not to punish you. (Joel 2:13)*
3. *For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD! (Ps 117:2)*

II. As the Fruit of the Holy Spirit grows in us, we 'become' God's agents of kindness (God's people manifesting the same graciousness to others they've received from God)

1. *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering... (Col 3:12)*
2. *But in all things we commend (try to show) ourselves as (true) ministers of God: We have proved ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, our sincere love, and the power of the Holy Spirit. (2Cor 6:4-6)*
3. *What is desired in a man is kindness, And a poor man is better than a liar. (Pr 19:22)*
4. *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. (Luke 6:35)*

III. God gives, actually prepares, opportunities for acts of kindness

1. Kindness is love dealing with others in their faults.
2. *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph 2:4-10)*

IV. There are basically two kinds of acts of kindness:

1. Spontaneous
2. Intentional