

**Vital Signs are indicators of LIFE...**

1. Fruit presupposes life: Fruit of the Holy Spirit evidences 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)

**Goodness** – (*agathosune* {ag-ath-o-soo'-nay})

- A rare word that combines being good and doing good; goodness is love in action; practical works of love.

**Text: Matthew 19:16-22****I. God is good...**

1. *No one is good but One, that is, God.* (Mt. 19:17)
2. *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth..."* (Ex 34:6)
3. The goodness of God *endures* continually. (Ps 52:1)
4. No one but Jesus has lived a sinless life... *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin* (Heb 4:15)

**II. God's intent** – His life and character be worked *in* and *thru* the lives of His people

1. *Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...* (Eph 1:4)
2. *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you* (John 15:16)

**III. Pathway to 'Fruitfulness'**

1. The fruit of goodness grows by 'following' Jesus and being faithful & obedient to His commands...
  - Jesus said, 'Follow me and keep My commands...' (Mat.19:17)
  - *His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'* (Mat 25:21)
2. Fruitfulness comes by living out who God is making you to be – (being good / doing good)
  - *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord* (Eph 5:8-10)
  - 'New birth,' being born again by the Spirit of God changes everything...
    - It's no longer *trying harder* to do good, it's *being* who God is making you to be as you walk with Him.
3. Right motives for obedience and living 'fruitful' lives...
  - This has to do with our perceptions/understanding of God...
  - Is it out of fear of getting hurt, or out of love and a desire to please Him...

Living an increasingly consistent life of goodness will only happen as we abide in Christ, allow and cooperate with the Holy Spirit of God as He continues His transforming work, and walk in faithfulness and loving obedience to God.

***...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ***  
***Philippians 1:6***