

COMPASSION

Compassion is another name for love – it is having mercy toward someone because you feel compelled to help them. You may have reason not to love them or to help them, but you choose to love them because you realize that they truly need help. To have compassion is to embrace and practice what God taught us through the giving of his son; what Jesus taught by the giving of life; and by what others teach us by the giving of resources to help others.



Having compassion is a condition of the heart. The book of Psalm tells us that *as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear them.* A father, parents, and adults should have compassion on children with the understanding that children need a protector, a caretaker, and a nurturer. With the same understanding of man's frailty or condition of need, God has compassion on man. Far more than man, the compassion of God extends beyond human understanding or capability. To have compassion is not being weak but, on the contrary, is being strong in the Lord's provision and free from our selfish nature.

The Good Samaritan is an excellent example of compassion. Crossing ethnic and social barriers, the parable personifies compassion as a vivid portrayal of love for your fellow man.. The Good Samaritan was not only responsible for the rescue of the wounded man, but ensured his full recovery by leaving a deposit for his care. He was truly genuine in his care and oversight in this man's recovery without any knowledge of the circumstances or outcome.

If only such compassion were extended to such degree in our lives – what a testimony and example for our world? Can we begin with our own family and continue the act to friends, acquaintances, and mere strangers – what a wonderful idea!

In a

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