terminate in reward in the life to come,” end quote. Consider how the Hebrews were being tempted to abandon their faith in Christ because of the persecution they were enduring from the hands of Judaism in the early church. One main theme in the book of Hebrews was that of endurance under trial and here we see some of the greatest encouragements in the New Testament to persevere until the end.

Hebrews 6:10-12 - 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. NASB

Hebrews 10:36-39 - 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. 37 For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. 38 But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul. NASB

In summary then let us see this great virtue of patience as an essential part of the Christian life. Let us hear the exhortations to patience with people and also with the difficulties of life. Let us "put on" this patience and patiently forbear with those in the church who try our good character, and also with those in the world so we may prove ourselves blameless. And also may we endure the great trials and difficulties of life maintaining our composure without fear and worry, but trusting in and waiting on the Lord, not giving into temptation and abandoning our faith in His goodness, but patiently enduring until the end when He delivers us and gives us eternal life. Let us not forget those words of our Lord concerning the end of the age and His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:13 - 13 “But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved. NASB

Kindness

Having looked at the first triad (love, joy, peace) of the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit, we come to the second triad (patience, kindness, goodness). Kindness is similar to those virtues we have already looked at in the fact that it is both an attribute of God and also a fruit of the Spirit within us.

Galatians 5:22-23 - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB

Kindness is a charitable and generous disposition toward others that manifests in gracious acts of free benevolence to others. It is expressed in many ways in the Bible and is closely related to the virtue of love, in love is said to be “kind.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - 4 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant NASB

Kindness can be spoken of without actually using the word for it whenever free acts of blessing are given, that is a kindness. The idea of grace is also related as grace is a favor given freely and not deserved, it is underserved favor. But kindness first lives in the heart as a charitable and generous disposition toward others, a desire to be a source of blessing and benefit to someone else. Then when kindness acts, it gives freely, out of its bounty. This can be in the form of favor granted where it is not deserved, or in the form of some material blessing given to another. As an attribute of God, it shines forth a glorious beauty. Kindness is God’s loyal love and favor towards His own people. In the Old Testament, the word translated as "kindness" or "lovingkindness" "hesed," refers to God's long-suffering love and His determination to keep His promises of blessing to His chosen people in spite of their sin and rebellion. And so God’s lovingkindness is celebrated throughout the pages of the Old Testament.
Psalm 145:8-9 - 8 The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. 9 The Lord is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works. NASB

God’s lovingkindness is to be a cause for praise and adoration, for no false God is like the Almighty God who is abundant in such things as grace, kindness and tender mercies, but these attributes of God are peculiar to His own self-revelation in the Bible.

Psalm 36:7 - 7 How precious is Thy lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings. NASB

Psalm 51:1 - 51 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions. NASB

Psalm 103:2-8 - 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; 3 Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; 4 Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; 5 Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle. 6 The Lord performs righteous deeds, And judgments for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel. 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. NASB

Psalm 31:21 - 21 Blessed be the Lord, For He has made marvelous His lovingkindness to me in a besieged city. NASB

Psalm 117:1-2 - 1 Praise the Lord, all nations; Laud Him, all peoples! 2 For His lovingkindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord is everlasting. Praise the Lord! NASB

This attribute of God was finds it apex and is shown through His divine mercy and forgiveness toward sinners when payment of sins was offered through the death of His Son, freely given by God to redeem us from the awful curse God’s wrath because of sin which results in death.

Titus 3:4-7 - 4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. NASB

Who can speak of such kindness that God has shown to His own rebellious creatures who have spurned His love and blasphemed His great name. Indeed no pen of man or tongue of angel can adequately describe it, but He will be praised forever and ever for it. Indeed the nations of the redeemed will forever praise God for His lovingkindness in the New Heavens and Earth which He will create. In fact, one main purpose of Christian salvation is simply so that God can show His kindness to us forever. And in we will return to praise Him for the glory of it.

Ephesians 2:4-7 - 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. NASB

In the New Testament, because God is kind, we are called to imitate Him in this great virtue. Jesus called us to this standard of life in His Kingdom first in the Sermon on the Mount.

Luke 6:35-36 - 35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. 36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. NASB

Paul instructs this to be done first in the heart, “put on a heart of kindness”...

Colossians 3:12-13 - 12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

And this then becomes our great desire in order to be like God, and live in the joy that such free benevolence toward others produces in our heart. For when we are kind, we find much joy!

Ephesians 4:32 - 32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. NASB