

English: goodness, grace, charity,  
mercy

חסד

Transliteration: che•sed

**170.** A few days ago we began a new series that has a connection to the previous series, 'fruit,' in its metaphorical manifestation. It consists of the qualities noted in Galatians 5:22-23 as the fruits of the Spirit. If you missed the Hebrew Word from the Lord titled 'the fruit of the Spirit,' we recommend that you read it now. You can find it in a previous email from about two weeks ago. **The sixth fruit of the Spirit is 'goodness,' 'che•sed.'**

Note: you may find more English words offered as translation for che•sed.

The exalted biblical virtue of 'che•sed' is perhaps the most important in scriptural ethics. It has ample mentioning in the Bible - more than 400 times. 'Che•sed' translates mostly as 'kindness' in the Old Testament and mostly as 'mercy' in the New Testament. It is a derivative of the verb 'chas,' which means 'sparing' and 'having mercy.' The contextual meaning of this word is precisely: 'refrain from killing, injuring, or distressing.' In today's fruit of the Spirit, che•sed is translated as 'goodness.'

Doing a 'che•sed' with a person either by another person or by God himself is much greater than doing someone a mere 'favor.' It is so important that it is one of the 13 attributes of God Himself. A biblical, repeated attribute is very close to become an actual name. In relation to God, 'che•sed' is a part of a well-known phrase that is an endearing attribute - almost another name for God. This beautiful phrase has become a part of the Hebrew traditional prayer: '**E•rch A•pa•yim ve•Rav Che•sed,**' (Long Suffering, and Abundant in Goodness). Notice that each is mentioned in Galatians 5 as a fruit of the Spirit. This attribute was first mentioned by Moses: "*And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth*" (Exodus 34:6). Moses says this exact name again, and this time the English translation is a bit different: "*The Lord is long suffering, and of great mercy*" (Numbers 14:18).

Once again the English translation changes, while the exact Hebrew **attribute** remains the same when the prophet Joel says: "*for He is...slow to anger, and of great kindness*" (Joel 2:13). This attribute is identical in both the Hebrew and English texts in Jonah 4:2.

The Book of Psalms solidifies this expression, and it now becomes a name to be used by future generations. The English text in Psalms, once again, is a bit different but remains the same in its two identical references: "*long suffering, and bountiful in loving kindness*" (Psalm 86:15 and 103:8). (Be aware that verses in English versions of Psalms may be one verse off, so check the previous or the next verse if you can't find it).

We end this subject with the New Testament verse (che•sed is mentioned 160 times): "*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen*" (Romans 16:24).