

# Balm of Lovingkindness

‘Show your marvelous kindness by your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You from those who rise up against them’

Psalm 17:7

The most revered word in the Old Testament, "chesed" or loving-kindness or mercy in the English translation. "Chesed" is a term that is exclusive in the covenant language describing relationship between people that reflect tender kindness, generosity or compassion that comes from love. When our relationship with God is broken, Yahweh works at renewing it, because He loves His covenant people. (Isa 49:14-16) When we rejected His Sovereignty and His holy ways, He still restrains His anger and does not give up on redeeming us from our miseries. (Isa 63:9)

Chesed has many broad meanings and so it is difficult to narrow down it simply in one English expression. It is a kingdom concept and it is relational, reciprocal and active. Within the commonwealth countries associated with the English culture, upon receiving a gift, the recipient says 'Thank you' as a reciprocal response of gratitude. Thus, the attitude of sincere gratefulness is a reciprocal "chesed" gift back to God. (Ps 26:7)

Basically, the five factors that promote the advancement of chesed are found in the passage of Psalm 26:1-4. Firstly, walking in the integrity of a clear conscience (Acts 23:1; 24:16). Secondly, walking in the confident disposition of a heart of faith—one that trusts in the Lord. Thirdly, a conscientious pattern of holy prayer lifestyle. Fourthly, a devout dedication to live and express His truth on this earth and finally, godliness that glorify the Holy One of Israel. As salt and light of the earth let's continue to extend lovingkindness or chesed to Him and to others in the journey of life.

The unfailing Mercies of Heaven, Lamentations 3:22