

## Taming Dove

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.” Galatians 5:22 (NIV)*

Dove arrived at our home with her brothers and sisters, newly removed from a very wild mother. We had agreed to help the local shelter with this litter of street kittens until they were old enough to be adopted. Dove was the runt and by far the wildest of the bunch. She couldn't help herself as she hissed and scratched when we tried to touch her. My husband thought she was beyond hope but I knew with God's help, and a little love, she could be different.

Dove's taming began when I laid hands on her and asked the Lord to take away her fears. My boys overheard my prayer and I relayed that if “His eye is on the sparrow” then He certainly cared for this tiny kitten. As we patiently and gently loved her, we showed her we were no threat. In two days she overcome her fears and transformed into a loving animal.

I'm not surprised to see this same wild spirit in the hearts of the individuals I work with. Many times they scratch and hiss at me when I try to calm their fears with God's message of love and salvation. With love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, the Lord can use us to reach their untamed soul with His grace. The result is a transformed person full of love and hope.

Caring for Dove meant we were willing to be scratched. Those wounds healed quickly and her transformation was worth the pain. We adopted her permanently into our family. She will always serve to remind us that no one (or no thing) is beyond hope in God's world!