



The Harvest

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Goodness of God

*“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You have anointed my head with oil,
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.”
~ Psalm 23:5-6 ~*

Good and evil have always been at war. Goodness, like last week’s focus on kindness, is another broad term that the Bible uses to cover a multitude of attributes. Goodness can be defined as uprightness of heart and life. It focuses in particular on the kindly side of uprightness as opposed to the righteous side.

We are called to live a life of “*holding fast to the good*” (Romans 12:9). So, what is good? We know for certain that God is eternally good. There is not a single part of His character that is not good. There is not a single part of His creation – including every sinful person on earth – that He does not show goodness to.

*“The Lord is good to all:
and His tender mercies are over
all His works.”
~ Psalm 145:9 (KJV) ~*

God demonstrates goodness to His people (read Nahum 1:7). Even when demonstrating righteous judgement, He is still good. He cares immensely for His creation, even when executing the judgement required by His perfect nature. The ultimate expression of God’s goodness to us was the sacrifice of Yeshua for the forgiveness of sins. In sending Yeshua, God was able to provide atonement that justice required while being altogether good to His people that had – and still have – purposefully sinned against Him. His righteousness required the debt of sin to be paid, and His goodness made a way for what we owe to be forgiven. Thus, we see that the two go hand-in-hand.

Pause: How have you seen the goodness of God in your life recently? Spend some time listing all the amazing ways you have seen Him show up in your life.

So, what do we do with the goodness of God? It’s all around us when we look and seek after Him. Note: if you’re having a hard time finding it, be gentle with yourself. Some seasons of life are really difficult to walk through, and in those, it’s often easier to see the negative in what’s happening around you. Take some time in God’s Word and in prayer daily. Ask Him to shift your eyes to see the goodness all around you. I promise, He will answer that prayer. The Bible says that the goodness of the Lord should motivate change in us.

*“But we know that the judgement of God is according to truth against those who practice such things [living a life of evil]. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgement of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that **the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**”*
~ Romans 2:2-4 ~

This should be a wakeup call for us as believers. We have an obligation to live as changed people, righteous and holy before the Lord, because of His goodness towards us. As we do that, we will in turn display goodness – the kind that can only be truly performed by the Holy Spirit – toward the people around us. It’s a beautiful, endless cycle. As God pours out His goodness on us, we walk forward renewed and invigorated to live according to His Word. As we walk forward in this, we become transformed more into the image of our Creator – displaying His goodness for the whole world to see. It’s important to note here that God is not expecting perfection. We will not be good as He is good all the time. Living in the world, we are merely reflections of Him. So be kind and patient with yourself as you learn to model the goodness of God for all to see. And know He is so proud of you and will work everything out for your good (*Romans 8:28*).

Brainstorm one tangible way you can show love to someone within the next week. Put a plan in place and then act on it! The fruit of the spirit show up in real ways in our lives when we choose to live them out!
Worship: Spend some time worshipping the Lord as you dwell on His goodness and how you’re going to show more of Him to others.

- ~ Goodness of God by Jenn Johnson
- ~ King of My Heart by Sarah McMillan
- ~ There is No Striving by Rita Springer
