

GOODNESS OF GOD

1 Chronicles 16:34 – Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 100:4-5 – Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting.

Psalm 119:68 – You are good, and do good...

The Bible defines God's goodness in two ways. One has to do with His character and the other focuses on His actions. God is good by nature. He is the true definition of good. He is good in and of Himself.

Mark 10:18 – No one is good but One, that is, God.

The Bible is full of verses that point to God's kindness, mercy, love, generosity – characteristics that display His goodness.

1. God is still good despite what we do or don't do

Psalm 23:6 – Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

God is good period. It doesn't matter what we think of ourselves, God will always be good.

Exodus 34:6 – The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.

Psalm 25:8 – Good and upright is the Lord.

Psalm 145:9 – The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

God is good in nature, and He wants to shower us with his blessings irrespective of what we do or don't do in this life. His goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. We cannot escape the goodness of God.

Romans 14:8 – If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:19 – Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself.

John 10:28 – I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

When we come to Christ, we are no longer our own, we belong to God. God doesn't condemn us so what gives us the right to condemn ourselves?

2 Corinthians 5:21 – For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. God wants to bless us with the desires of our hearts

Psalm 20:4 – May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

Psalm 37:4-5 – Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.

Taking delight in the Lord means we find pleasure, satisfaction and contentment because we enjoy His

fellowship, and we share His heart and purpose. When we truly delight in Jesus, our desires will begin to reflect His desires.

Commit means 'to carry out, to do, to engage in, to enact and to execute'. This is not a one-time commitment but a daily commitment. If we place our trust and hope in Jesus first, He will grant our desires because they match up with His will.

Matthew 7:11 – If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

James 1:17 – Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

3. God remains good in every situation we are going through

Psalms 27:13 – I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Psalm 33:5 – He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Nahum 1:7 – The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him.

Our struggles show us that no matter what we are experiencing, God remains good, and His goodness can be seen even in the worst of circumstances.

It's easy to thank God for His blessings and to recognise the positive things He is doing when everything is going well. When things aren't working out the way we planned or when we cannot see God working as actively as we hope, we must focus on His goodness even stronger.

Romans 8:28 – We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Despite all of the uncertainties that may be present in our lives, God still has everything under control. God is doing so much work behind the scenes that we don't see. He is working everything together for good. We may not always know what He is doing behind

the scenes, but we can rest in the knowledge that He has everything under control, and He is preparing the way before us.

His blessings are still there even when we can't see them clearly. When we are shaken it is easy to forget about God's goodness, but we must remain focused. Even when we are shaken God still wants to bless us and His goodness continues to surround us.

One of the best ways that we can maintain a positive perspective in times of trouble is to continually thank God for His goodness, particularly in times of prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Chronicles 16:34 – Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

Psalms 95:1-2 – Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Philippians 4:4-7 – Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 118:24 – This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

When we pray with a thankful heart and when we make the conscious effort to recognise God's goodness in all situations, we are actively outworking our faith and showing God that we trust in Him.

Conclusion

Psalms 34:8 – Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Continue to lift your eyes to God and make the conscious decision to recognise His goodness in your life. There is so much to be thankful for in this life and there is so much that God wants to bless you with. Never lose sight of the bigger picture.