

God is Good All the Time

- *The opening verses of the Bible declare the goodness of God and that all He does is good. “Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.” (Genesis 1:3-4).*
- *Describing God’s acts of creation, Genesis, Chapter one, states that it was good seven times. After God completed creation, the chapter concludes by saying, “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Genesis 1:31).*
- *Everything God created was good because God Himself is good.*
- *Everything God does is good, and He never leaves anything incomplete. He brings fulfillment and completion so nothing is lacking. “And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”” (Genesis 2:18). After God created Adam, He saw that Adam was alone, and created a companion with whom Adam could share his life. In His goodness, God provided Eve before Adam even realized his need.*
- *The Book of Revelation concludes with an event we can look forward to with great anticipation—the perfection of God’s goodness. “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.” (Revelation 21:1a).*
- *In Heaven we will have unbroken and unhindered fellowship with God. “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.” (Revelation 21:3).*
- *In Heaven all the sorrows and suffering of this life will disappear so we can enjoy His joy, peace, and love for all eternity—unblemished by tears. “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:4). Think of it—no more emotional or physical pain, no sickness, no disappointments, complete harmony with each other and with God!*
- *Because God is good everything in eternity will be perfect without even a hint of the evil and rebellion that resulted from man’s sins. The new Heaven and earth will be untainted because it will be brand new! “Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” (Revelation 21:5). God does not renovate broken things but creates them afresh. That is why “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The newness that began with our new birth will be utterly eclipsed by our perfection in Heaven.*

- *When we focus our attention on God's goodness and the hope of what Heaven holds, it will encourage us to live obedient and victorious lives, free from defilement. "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." (1 John 3:1-3).*
- *"You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won't last forever. It won't be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are!—will have you put together and on your feet for good." (1 Peter 5:9-11, The Message).*
- *Faith is not just believing that God exists but that God is good and everything He does is good. Faith is that unshakeable confidence that if we put our trust in God not only will we not be disappointed but we will be overwhelmingly delighted by the ultimate outcome. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6).*
- *In the Garden, the basis of the temptation was not how delicious the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil might be. The temptation was to question the very character of God. The serpent declared that God was not good and His Word was not trustworthy. "Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4-5).*
- *"The root of all sin is the suspicion that God is not good." Oswald Chambers*
- *The serpent tempted Eve by calling into question God's goodness. Today the enemy tries to tempt us to doubt God's goodness through the circumstances we may face, the people who may oppose us, or even our own feelings and thoughts which may tend to drag us down.*
- *We must read, interpret, and apply Scripture through the lens of God's goodness. Many people have distorted God's Word and His character by reading the Bible through their own distorted lens of self-righteousness and self-centeredness or by viewing God in a negative light. This distortion of God's character resulted in selfish and angry people who sometimes did terrible things supposedly in the name of the Gospel. We have only to think of the crusades and pogroms, or of the native children in Canada forced to attend residential schools run by so-called Christian organizations.*

- *We must see the events of this life from the point of view that God is good. Not everything that happens is good and some things are painful and even evil, but God is good in the midst of our circumstances. God is so good that He can even take our losses and the most painful and difficult experiences we face and bring forth His redemption and glory if we trust Him!*
- *“in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Give thanks in all things not because everything is good but because God is good in everything.*
- *Circumstances may change but God does not change. “For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” (Malachi 3:6). In Him, there is no shadow of turning.*
- *He remains good and faithful even when we fail to be good and faithful. “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13). God responds to our faithfulness, but He is not constrained by our unfaithfulness. Faithfulness is His very character.*
- *Anytime we become discouraged, upset, or weary in well doing it means that at that moment we don’t believe God is good.*
- *The solution to overcoming any temptation begins with focusing on God’s goodness. “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1–2).*
- *How do we begin to become convinced and confident that God is good? “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” (Psalm 34:8). As we learn to see God’s hand at work in small things, it will become easier to know His hand is at work in our difficulties.*
- *Many Christians have not consistently spent enough time with the Lord to know that He is good and therefore are not able to trust Him.*
- *Unrestrained praise and thanksgiving ignite our hearts with a confidence in His goodness and faithfulness. “Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant.” (Psalm 135:3). In Hebrew, “pleasant” means “lovely, sweet, delightful, producing happiness.”*
- *If we are not spending time praising and giving thanks to God we are robbing ourselves of the peace, joy, and delight with which God wants to fill our hearts.*

- *A Christian will never develop a vibrant prayer life without learning to enter into extravagant thanksgiving and praise. “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.” (Psalm 100:4-5).*
- *We need to become confident and fully convinced, that no matter what mistakes we have made, failures we have experienced, hurts that have been inflicted upon us, or circumstances in which we find ourselves, that God is good and to “know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28).*
- *We also need to be confident and fully convinced that God is for us and that He always has our best interest at heart. “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32).*
- *We also need to understand that God’s goodness extends beyond just the temporal blessings of this life to bring forth His glory in us and through us for all eternity. “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” (Romans 8:29-30).*
- *What God has in store for us is far greater than we can fathom. “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9).*
- *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:16-17). God is inviting us to a much greater calling than even the angels of Heaven—He has called us to be co-heirs with Christ and to rule and reign with Him for all eternity. “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” (Revelation 3:21).*
- *However, there is a process we need to experience to be conformed to the image of Jesus so that we can sit with Him on His throne and that process involves suffering. “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” As we go through times of suffering it is essential that we remain confident that God is good and His ways are perfect. Otherwise, we will begin to believe the lies of the enemy.*

- *Suffering helps to sanctify and mature us so we change from carnal selfish Christians to mature Spirit-led Christians. The purpose of the suffering we must endure is not rooted in the things we face but the struggles we must endure as we face our own carnal nature that is filled with selfish sinful habits and attitudes. We need to daily “put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.” (Ephesians 4:22–23).*
- *People and circumstances do not cause me the greatest suffering but the way I react to them in my own selfish ways. When I am Spirit-led I have peace and joy independent of the circumstances I face. “Actually, I don’t have a sense of needing anything personally. I’ve learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances.” (Philippians 4:11 The Message).*
- *When I believe the lie that if everything around me was better I would be happy and content, it distracts me from the real problem—my selfish carnal attitude. The real solution is simply to recognize I just need to live a life fully surrendered to God. “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21).*
- *When we are in the midst of a spiritual battle and our flesh wants to rebel as we experience difficult or painful circumstances we simply need to quiet our hearts and reflect on what God is preparing for us in eternity. “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18).*

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.

For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (The Message)

¹⁶So we’re not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace.

¹⁷These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us.

¹⁸There’s far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can’t see now will last forever.

- *One of the best examples of suffering producing God’s glory is found in the story of Joseph. Joseph received two dreams from the Lord each indicating that God had a wonderful and glorious purpose for his life. Similarly, God has promised through His*

Word and through His Spirit that He is preparing something wonderful for all of us both now and for eternity.

- *However, before Joseph could fully enter into God’s purposes for his life he had to go through a series of trials, suffering, and even betrayals so he would be ready and able to enter into God’s purposes for his life. Likewise, God does not want to leave us as immature babies. He wants us to grow up into mature sons and daughters of God who are fully in the image of Jesus. However, this process sometimes requires times of trials and suffering.*
- *When Joseph passed through all his times of hardships God called him out of prison and from all his trials to sit on the throne to rule over Egypt and to be the savior of Israel. Likewise, God is preparing us so He can call us up to be seated with Him on His throne forever!*
- *Joseph is probably the best Old Testament prophetic picture of Christ. He was faithful as he went through his times of suffering and he developed Christ-like character which brought glory to God. There is not one incident recorded in the Bible where Joseph deviated from the path God had prepared for him!*
- *When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers who had betrayed him, contemplated murdering him, and ultimately sold him as a slave, his response was a reflection of Christ’s love. He completely and unconditionally forgave them. “Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we are your servants.” Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?”” ““Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.” (Genesis 50:18, 19, 21).*
- *Just as wonderful and remarkable as Joseph’s unconditional love and forgiveness for his brothers was his view of all the years of his suffering, betrayal, misunderstanding, and even imprisonment. “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” (Genesis 50:20). Joseph did not see those years as a waste. He saw God’s goodness and the perfection of His plans even though he had been repeatedly misunderstood and wronged by others.*
- *Joseph saw God’s hand in all that had happened to him—not just for his own good, but for the salvation of his family and the glory of God.*

Psalm 145 (NKJV)

A Praise of David.

¹I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever.

²Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.

⁴One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.

⁵I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.

⁶Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness.

⁷They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.

⁹The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.

¹⁰All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You.

¹¹They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power,

¹²To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

¹⁴The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season.

¹⁶You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.

¹⁸The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.

¹⁹He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

²⁰The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.

²¹My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

- *We can summarize God's goodness from the words of Nahum 1:7. "The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him."*