

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, **goodness**, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

In this post I want to discuss the fruit *Goodness*, and I want to focus more on God being good and seeing the fruit manifested in Him and how it is revealed in us, His followers.

Goodness (Greek: agathosune) – Popular English Bibles (e.g. NIV, NASB, NLT) translate the single Greek word *chrestotes* into two English words: kindness and goodness.

The Greek meaning for goodness is: “Uprightness of heart and life, goodness, kindness.” (Thayer Greek Definitions)

The picture of the word ‘goodness’ in the Greek means: the quality of a person who is ruled by and aims at the good; a moral excellence; uprightness and honorableness in heart and life; virtue equipped at every point and in every circumstance; and excellence of character expressing itself in active good. This Greek word is the broadest word used in the Bible for goodness and includes traits of love, kindness, selflessness, humility, honor, faithfulness, and strength.

Goodness is the action that kindness brings. Goodness is what God is. God is Good. God cannot be anything else but good. Why? Because He is good. That is who and what He is. Just like love.. God is love and can never be anything else. And here is some really good news! He is waiting and looking for people to be good too.

Isaiah 30:18a Amplified Bible

“And therefore the Lord [earnestly] waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you; and therefore He lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on you and show loving-kindness to you.”

Goodness stands up to and challenges the sin nature, it actively puts truth in action and is a guardian of the truth of God. Goodness is the thing that brings people to repentance and is like a mirror reflecting the nature of God in place of the selfish nature of sin. Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones, in his commentary *Darkness and Light*, says that goodness is “indicative of a perfect balance in the various parts of the personality. A good man is a balanced man, a man in whom everything that is noble and excellent works

harmoniously together.” In this statement we can see traits of love, kindness, selflessness, humility, honor, faithfulness, and strength. God does not change. He does not get better as time passes. He is not moody.

"I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."—Malachi 3:6

- He is *Unchangeable* - He remains everlastingly the same. There are no furrows on his eternal brow. No age hath palsied him; no years have marked him with the mementoes of their flight; He sees ages pass, but with Him it is ever now. He is the great I AM—the Great Unchangeable. - Charles Spurgeon

These qualities are called the doctrine of “THE IMMUTABILITY OF GOD.” So let me list the immutabilities of God. He changes not in his attributes Eternality, this is by no means an exhaustive list but it will present a good picture of the nature of God. He is all of these things listed below and so much more.

Eternality	Mercy	Love
Goodness	Omnipotence	Transcendence
Grace	Omnipresence	
Holiness	Omniscience	
Immanence	Righteousness	
Immutability	Self-Existence	
Justice	Sovereignty	

Goodness & Kindness walk hand in hand and are part of the character of God. The Lord said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Being born again, our spirit is as changed as it will ever be for all of eternity. The same is true for every born again person. But for the entirety of our Christian life we must spend the time renewing our minds to what is already a reality in our spirits.

Specifically, we need to renew our minds concerning the very nature and character of God. God is Good. When reading the book of Romans one can quickly see that Paul is saying that we as believers need to see our relationship with God is not based on our own efforts but on the goodness of God, a total reliance upon the Lord, His goodness, His grace.

"My name from the palms of his hands Eternity will not erase; Impress'd on his heart it remains.. In marks of indelible grace."

Salvation is all about the goodness and faithfulness of God and not about anyone else. If we are going to have a close relationship with God our Father we must have a revelation of His goodness. If we have a sour attitude about our idea of God and His relationship with us then not only will we act and be sour but we will sour everything and everyone around us.

We as believers need to turn from a performance mentality—which bases relationship with God on our own efforts—to a total trust and reliance upon the Lord.

Psalms 31:19 Amplified Bible

"Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear, revere, and worship You, **goodness which You have wrought for those who trust and take refuge in You before the sons of men!"**

Goodness, as with the other fruits of the Spirit, are producing in us all the time. God is telling us "I made you good, so be good". If we understand that when we are born again that we become a brand new creature, as one translation puts it "a new species of being, that never existed before", then we have to accept that we have a divine nature, the nature of God. We cannot have two natures in us at the same time, one man with the nature of sin died and a new man with the nature of God was born.

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:4)

Let us look at this nature that we share and are growing in. The phrase "*divine nature*" means taking on a God-like or Christ-like personality and character. Now we can be saved and still not have these characteristics manifesting in our lives. The verb in this passage if you look in a Greek concordance indicates the idea of "potentiality, rather than certainty." In other words, we now have the potential to partake of God's divine nature.

Through His Word and through His promise we can renew our minds and learn of Him and each day present our bodies to serve God and be shaped into His likeness to show on the outside what we have on the inside. This is a choice, one that we make each day. Jesus redeemed man and gave him the ability to be born again and to then partake of this divine nature of God by going through sanctification and get back to the original intent of why God created man.

We have God's divine nature in our spirit when we are born again into God's likeness. But our soul (mind, will & emotions) and body have to develop into God's divine nature or likeness. By partaking of God's divine nature, it means that we become like Jesus, growing into godly love.

Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the **good pleasure of his goodness**, and the work of faith with power:

(2 Thessalonians 1:11)

Goodness and kindness show the healthy, balanced, God kind of life we can and should have and are able to show people in this life. God is good! Everything about Him is good and He only has good in store for us His children. God never uses bad or something not good to train or teach His children. God cannot be bad any more than He could commit sin.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.”
Nahum 1:7 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:2 |

So in closing we now can see that since we have changed from darkness to light and walk as the children of light and the fruit of goodness is producing always in our born again spirit, we can understand we no longer have to depend on receiving from God based on our goodness. When we try to win an argument with the devil based on what we have done we will lose every time. But when we have changed to receiving from God through Jesus' righteousness, the devil can no longer win because we pray in the name of Jesus and because of His righteousness and goodness and His holiness we can expect to receive every time.

Don't misunderstand me, I, as we all should, strive to live a life that does not allow the devil any free shots at me. We should all live our lives as holy as we possibly can because it limits any inroads for the devil to come in on.

We are fighting from a position of victory, and because of that **we have won.**

Blessings!! And remember...look to your future and not to the past, learn to live in the grace of God and love much, forgive always and hold no bitterness toward anyone

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