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## God is GOOD!

By Sherry Gregory

God is Good, and God is Goodness, true Goodness. True Goodness came from God who is the source of Goodness. There is no other Goodness that is true goodness except through the gift of God.

Whether it was that God asked Jesus to come to us or whether Jesus volunteered to come to the human race that does not really matter. What matters is that the God-head worked together to get the human race out of an eternal death trap.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit all worked as one finely-tuned and perfect unit (team, machine) in redeeming us from destruction, death and all the effects that sin and death could have on us. With the creation of heaven and earth, with the birth, earthly ministry, and the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, God's only begotten Son, and finally the impartation of the Holy Ghost to us, God proved Himself worthy of our trust in Him.

Even though He is the Great Creator, he did not even think it a robbery of His Holy, Omnipotent Title and name to humble himself by sending His very best, His only Son for our sakes. His Son, Jesus the Christ (Messiah) gave up His very life (willingly sacrificing for us) and as the Word of God states: "became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus"...

In other words, Jesus exchanged places for us! **THAT IS GOODNESS MANIFESTED!!!!** He desired that we have eternal LIFE! Not just a form of life but LIFE, ZOE life that is abundant and GOOD! The Goodness of God makes His love practical and beneficial to take hold of in every person's own personal life circumstances. The provision of Goodness goes deeper than just filling an immediate need – but stretches to provide complete restoration in us so that we can also provide complete restoration to others.

Jesus knew (perceived / discerned) the condition of those whom he was sent to deliver, healing and call to oneness with Him. He fully considered those He was in contact with, from His disciples to those he delivered from sickness, infirmity, demon possession and hurt hearts. He was gentle and very powerful at the same time.

Jesus also deliberately did things that would *fully persuade* his disciples so that they could be adequate and full disciples for him. Jesus gave the "regular person" confidence in who they could be and who they were called to be. So, it was for the disciples in Jesus' day, and now. With the KINGDOM of GOD in our mouths, flowing from our hands and hearts we are now able to teach, preach and heal all whom we encounter. If people try to portray Goodness, without God as their source, they are simply portraying a "form of goodness" without the real ability and power from God to back it up with quality for permanent change for the better in their lives.

Goodness without God's power is just a temporary fix to a hurting world. The goodness that the world gives is from the imperfect, fallible, natural, flesh and the evil world, and only serves as a mask or a Band-Aid that

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is in other words a fake or a counterfeit of goodness. Likewise with all of the other qualities of goodness, like love, peace, truth, light, life, kindness....we cannot have a true lasting quality of God in us without allowing HIM to flow that through us, in a real and living, practical way. If we are not OF GOD, we can not possess GOD's Character IN US, so we can have God flowing out from us!

Romans 2:4 says it this way, *“Or are you so blind to trifle with and presume upon and despise and underestimate the wealth of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering patience? Are you unmindful or actually ignorant [of the fact] that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repent (to change your mind and inner man to accept God’s will)?”*

**Psalm 34:8, “Oh taste and see that the Lord is Good!** Hebrew # 2896 In this scripture, the author has EXPERIENCED God's Goodness first hand. This is no less than a personal encounter with God Himself in this person's life. God must have proven that He was real in this person's life in order for them to write a song about it! We know that most of the Psalms were written by King David, who was a lowly shepherd boy, anointed to be King, and it took a long time in David's life to actually experience becoming King. God has also proven Himself in many people's lives throughout time. How about you? Have you experienced His goodness toward you? If you haven't, then you have probably not truly had a desire to experience God for real. It is time to know who God really is; it is time for you to experience GOOD. The word used here is reference # 2896 Hebrew – in the widest sense this word can be a noun, or an adjective, masculine or feminine, singular and plural.

**Psalm 31: 19-21 “How great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear, revere, and worship You....** In this reading, the word goodness takes on a new meaning. Goodness that has been saved as an inheritance, or has been stored away for a future use for someone who will receive it as a reward for their faithfulness, for honoring God, for respecting Him and holding Him in high regard....Does that make you as a born again believer feel privileged? It should. In other words, God who gave His best for all mankind's sake, has also reserved special gifts like goodness for those who he desires to bless with joy! Amazing God! The Hebrew reference here is # 2898 which means beauty, gladness, welfare, joy.

**Mark 9:50, “Salt is good, but if it has lost its flavor... In this reference, “good” means something that adds spice and flavor to something, is able to preserve from decay. When a person cans vegetables from a garden, the first thing that is put in the bottom of the canning jar is a teaspoon of salt. Without the salt, there would be no preservative at all. In this particular scripture however, the meaning is taken to another level of enlightenment. #2750 Greek, kiera literally means a swathe, i.e. winding sheet, grave clothes. WOW Jesus is referring to the well wound dead body that is spiced so that it won't stink at death, but last longer...without rotting. When Jesus was speaking he was speaking of the quality of the salt and its use to do a work. If it has lost its saltiness it might as well be thrown out. Remember that when Jesus was born as well, he was wrapped in swaddling clothes. The baby is wrapped in these sheet-like wraps however to give the infant a feeling of security, of warmth, and of protection. Another analogy could be “Salt” referring to the human personality, would be someone who is alert and lively in their conversations as well as in their style of living. Jesus was “salty”. He definitely never lost the flavor of his personality**

**Matthew 19: 17, “And He said to him, “Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God; but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”The word used in this scripture is reference # 18. Jesus told the disciples that only ONE deserved to be called the definition of Good, and that was His Father, GOD.**

**John 10: 11, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep.” The word used in this scripture is reference # 2570. Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd here and gives an example of GOODNESS manifested by prophetically stating what His purpose on earth is, to lay down His life so that His people could have life.**

**Acts 10: 38, “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him”...The word used in this scripture is reference # 2109. Jesus went about taking the anointing (the love and power) of God to all who were oppressed of the devil and freed them from his power and control. Jesus gave life by allowing LIFE to flow out from Him...but he had to be rubbed into, smeared onto, and saturated with GOD who is LIFE and GOODNESS before it could flow out from Him to them.**

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**Acts 9: 36, “This woman was full of good works... Speaking of Dorcas or Tabitha, who was a disciple and also who had a great gift operating through her by sewing as a part of her witness to the Gospel of Christ! She did not have to sew for a living; she already had the means to facilitate her giving and was using this means as a tool for eternal life to others! WOW! Again the reference # 18 in the Greek is used and denotes the GOD personality! The POWER of GOOD, again...and many were saved when she rose up! This was the same word used in the description of the Father God that Jesus spoke of as far as *there is only One good*. That is right; neither did Dorcas just sew out of wanting to make a big impression. In fact historically, Dorcas was a wealthy widow, who had the money to buy material and the compassion and the time to sew clothes for the people who really needed them! Amazingly enough, this giving heart brought her great popularity as well, and when she fell sick, people were beside themselves with grief! The cry went out of sorrowful loss and reached the next town where Peter was, and that cry wanted everyone around to know of the loss. But God also convinced Peter to go to raise her up from death. God knew that many would gain eternal life with her rising up from the dead. God provided the faith in Peter, but most of all. He provided Tabitha with the unshakable knowledge that God would not leave her and so when Peter called her back, she was quickened by the Holy Ghost and she was raised up!!! The Word says, “And many believed in the Lord”...**

**James 1: 17, “Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father”... Many times in scripture the words good and perfect are used in concordance with each other. This scripture is so well described in the Amplified version when it says, “ Every good gift and every perfect (free, large, full) gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all [that gives] light, in [the shining of] Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning as in an eclipse.” The word for good used here is # agathos, which is a prime or a root word. In other words, Good as a noun or of GOD.**

**Luke 6:27, “Do good to them which hate you.... Here the word used is Kalos, which is # 2573, and means morally well, good, honestly, recovering full well... Hmmm, does this say something about the way we deal with those who actually hate us? Jesus is talking about the “power” of doing good in the worst of circumstances. The Power of the goodness of God to change even the most rotten of hearts, to repentance and conviction so that they too might turn around, change their ways and see the Lord for Who He really is, so that they might live and not die. Wow, it seems so useless to apply our effort to something like this, but if we will only obey this commandment....what riches we will enjoy! Goodness begets goodness. Goodness reaps a harvest!**

**2 Timothy 3:5 For although they hold a form of piety (godliness) they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies (to contradict or to give a false impression) the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid all such people [turn away from them]. Amp & KJV combined** When we think of the word hypocrite we think of someone who puts on false airs or acts one way and really on the inside is another than what they act like. This is what the scripture in 2 Timothy is saying. Too many times we hear of people and companies that practice awful, moral and ethical conduct, yet they do a humanitarian act or smile into the camera, or talk as if they are the nicest, most considerate people in the world...their character is who they are on the inside, behind closed doors, not the person or company that is seen on the outside. Jesus gave a fantastic assertion in Matthew 23 when he addressed the Pharisees of his walk on the earth...he says that they are white washed sepulchres and that the outside of the cup was clean, but that the inside was not. The believer of today can be one of these types of “Christian” if they deny the power of CHRIST IN THEM, by the Holy Ghost. Let us be GOOD from the inside out...because if we don't have HIM on the inside and allow HIM to come out from there, then we are not operating in truth.

**2 Timothy 2:21 “So, whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble (base, dishonorable, low), who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel of honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work...”** The “good” in this scripture is # 18 which means a “God” powered work. Notice that this instruction clearly points out that in order for one to be “powered” by God they must be consecrated or set apart from living in a low state, a corruptible state.

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**Galatians 5: 22, “But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience ((an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness.... In the verses that precede this scripture reference, in verses 17, 19, 20 & 21 we learn what the fruits of the flesh are...which are destructive, evil and not for anyone’s benefit, and they are clearly opposite of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. So, in verses 22-23 laid out for us are the exact signs for one who is flowing “fruits” of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are always for the positive, benefit of the person receiving from them. Notice that the Amplified version states that goodness has a direct meaning of benevolence, which would be to benefit someone in need. Isn’t it amazing that the fruits of the Spirit are all for someone else’s benefit. God IS GOODNESS!**

**Ephesians 5:9, “The fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light or the Spirit [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart and trueness of life.”The word that is used in this scripture is reference # 19 from # 18, Agathune meaning goodness, virtue, benefit. In a plant that bears fruit, the fruit is always an outgrowth of the host or mother plant. Good, tasty, juicy fruit that comes from a good quality of plant, and bad fruit that comes from a bad quality of plant.**

**Other various scripture references referencing God’s awesome Goodness:**

**Luke 4:38-39, “Then He arose and left the synagogue and went into Simon’s (Peter’s) house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering in the grip of a burning fever, and they pleaded with Him for her. And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and immediately she got up and began waiting on them.” The Lord not only rebuked the fever, but His authority and dominion over it delivered her so completely that she felt actually good enough that she wanted to serve them all and did! God’s Goodness toward her completely healed and delivered her immediately. No delays! God’s Goodness is NOW!**

**LUKE 5: 1-11,”And He saw two boats drawn up by the lake, but the fishermen had gone down from them and were washing their nets. And getting into one of the boats, [the one] that belonged to Simon (Peter), He requested him to draw away a little from the shore. Then HE sat down and continued to teach the crowd [of people] from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon (Peter), “Put out into the deep [water], and lower your nets for a haul.” And Simon (Peter) answered, Master, we toiled all night [exhaustingly] and caught nothing [in our nets]. But on the ground of Your Word, I will lower the nets again.” And when they had done this they caught a great number of fish as their nets were [at the point of] breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and take hold with them. And they filled both the boats so much that they began to sink. But when Simon (Peter) saw this he fell down at Jesus’ knees saying, “depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he was gripped with bewildering amazement [allied to terror], and all who were with him at the haul of fish which they had made; and so also were James and John, the some Zebedee, who were partners with Simon (Peter). And Jesus said to Simon, “Have no fear; from now on you will be catching men!” Isn’t it amazing when we come to the realization that God desires for us to have such overwhelming delight in our experiences with him that we are motivated with good life experiences to share with others so that they might come to know Him and His love? As I John 3:1 states, “See what a quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not know (recognize, acknowledge) us is that it does not know (recognize, acknowledge) Him.**

**Matthew 5: 16, ...that they may see your good works...**

**Matthew 5: 44, ...Do good to them that hate you**

**Matthew 7:11, ...Give good gifts to your children...how much more, The Father which is in heaven gives good things.**

**Matthew 7:17, ...to give good gifts to your children...**

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