Persuaded that God is good

**Experience God’s goodness**

**Monday**

Read Hebrews 11;6, 26-27, Exodus 33

God plans to reward you, but you need to believe that He has good intentions for you. **Journalize** your thoughts.

**Tuesday**

Read Ephesians 1

Your faith in God is in direct proportion to your understanding of God’s goodness. **Meditate** all day on God’s goodness toward you.

**Wednesday**

Read John 11:1-44

Do you have a hard time believing God is good? **Study** Jesus’ goodness.

**Thursday**

Read Luke 5:1-11

To really know God’s goodness, go deeper with God. **Spend time** with God today.

**Friday**

Read Deuteronomy 28

What was the last thing God told you to do? **Obey** God’s direction and experience all the goodness of His blessings.

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Smith Wigglesworth - after two men ineffectively praying for a dying woman, Wigglesworth stepped up and saw Jesus above the sick woman, sweetly smiling over her and once he had prayed for her, she was instantly healed.

Why did the two mens’ prayer have no results, while Wigglesworth’s prayer did?

He understood something the other men didn't and he received different results than they did.  What did he see and understand?

God is good!

Your faith and your trust in God are in direct proportion to your understanding of God’s goodness

**Hebrews 11:6 New International Version (NIV)**

**6**And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Paraphrased:

If you don’t believe God is good, you can’t please God, because anyone who comes to Jesus must:

1. Believe that God exists
2. That Jesus shows His goodness to those who follow Him

A good parent will reward their child's positive progress. Its called positive reinforcement. A good boss will praise their team as they do the right things.  A good teacher will do the same with their students.

On the flip side, a bad boss will simply say, they are doing their job...why should I praise them? A bad parent will say, they better be obedient.

Dog whisperers know how to get pets to want to do a trick or behave well...you know they are good with animals.

God doesn't have to reward us, but He does!  He rewards us because He is good.

Hebrews 11:26-27 New International Version (NIV)

**26**He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. **27**By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Why do some see God's goodness and other don't? Because their spiritual vision has been blinded.

Ephesians 1:18 New International Version (NIV)

**18**I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance **in** his holy people

When you begin to realize that God is good, you are going to start getting different results in life!

So how can we have spiritual blindness taken away?  Spiritual blindness referred to as a veil.

**2 Corinthians 3:14-18 New International Version (NIV)**

**14**But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. **15**Even to this day when Moses is read, (Old Testament, worse still the entire Bible read the law of judgment)  a veil covers their hearts. **16**But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **17**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18**And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, (as you will see, God's glory also equates to His goodness) which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Why can't we see God's goodness? Because we are spiritually blind. Why are we spiritually blind? Because we haven't completely turned to Jesus? What happens when we turn to Jesus and contemplate His glory or His goodness? The course of our life changes and we start getting completely different results.

**Exodus 33:18-19 New International Version (NIV)**

**18**Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

**19**And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence.

Moses asked to see God's glory and God answered by showing Moses His goodness which shows that they are one and the same.

After Moses got this revelation of God's goodness, he was never the same again. He was no longer blind, and consequently, he started getting amazing results. Food rained out of heaven, quail were blown into the desert, Israel routed attacking armies, he struct rocks and water poured out, he got direct instruction from God.

**Luke 5:1-11 New International Version (NIV)**

**5**One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. **2**He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. **3**He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

One day goodness showed up in your life. One day Jesus invited himself into your life for a day so you could taste and see that the Lord is good. When Jesus asks to come into your life, invite Him and don't ever let him leave! Jesus' goodness will change your life forever!

**4**When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

There is the ocean of God's goodness, so deep, so wide that you will get lost in it. When Jesus invites you to put out into deeper water, go for it. If you can't touch the ground where you are at, what difference does it make to go deeper with God? Swim out into the depths of His goodness and lose yourself in Him.

**5**Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

We've work hard all night - We've worked in our own strength. We've done it our way without consulting you. We are tired and exhausted, frustrated, anxious, irritated.

We have NO RESULTS. I'm still sick, I am still childless, I still don't have a job, my marriage is still failing, I'm still addicted.  WHERE IS THE IS GOOD GOD THAT YOU SPEAK OF BECAUSE I SURE HAVEN'T MET HIM!

What could have Peter and his buddies done all night instead of trying so hard? Because I think there is a big lesson to be learned here.

They could have slept and rested

Something I have learned is that when God is about to do something great, powerful and good, He gives you a heads up. So what do you think you should do when Jesus is about to show up to the scene? PREPARE

The Spirit forewarns us...I am about to fill your boat with some many fish that it is going to sink you. My goodness is going to bring you so much blessing you won't be able to contain it all...so get ready!!!!

How could they have prepared that night?

* strengthened their boats
* borrowed more boats
* strengthened their nets

**6**When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. **7**So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

God's goodness won't be full apparent to you until "you have done so". Be full of faith and do what God tells you to do, so you can full appreciate and know His goodness!

These two verses describe how insanely good God is!

**8**When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” **9**For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, **10**and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

God's goodness makes our selfish selves so worthless...our selfish selves fall in submission at Jesus' feet and we say, I don't want "me" any more, I want you in all your goodness!

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”**11**So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

How good was Jesus? So good that the disciplines left everything and followed Him.

There are 5 steps to experiencing God’s goodness for yourself:

1. **Let Jesus in your boat (your life)**. The goodness Peter experienced was beginning to hear Jesus' voice, He had intersected the flow of God's river and he was enjoying the goodness of His word and the cleansing of His teaching. *If you never let God into your life, you will never know that He is good.*
2. **Go deeper with God**. Leave the shores of your feelings.  Stop living by your fleshly tendencies, reactions and go deeper with God.  Setting your feelings aside for God's presence. You will experience the spiritual goodness of God in a way you never have before. *If you never leave the shore of your feelings, you will never experience all His spiritual goodness.*
3. **Obey the Holy Spirit when He tells you to do something**. The blessings of God will begin to flow in your life and you will experience the tangible goodness of God. (Deut 28) "**When they had done so**"...so much blessing came that they almost sunk. *If you refuse to obey Him, you will never receive the fullness of His blessings.*
4. **See Jesus for who He really is**. He is good. He is sovereign. He is not a genie that grants you all your wishes. He is completely righteous. When we truly see Him for who He is, in all His glorious goodness, our selfish self comes into stark contrast and we fall at his knees in desperate repentance. In that moment we are finally free from ourselves which up until that point will be the best good thing we have ever experienced from God. *If you never bow your selfish self to the goodness of Jesus, you will never realize His glorious goodness.*
5. **Leave everything behind, including your selfish self, and follow Jesus the rest of your life**. From that point on, you will live **in** His goodness. You leave your boat behind, which is your life and all of its devices and struggles, and you leave you nets behind, everything you trust and are confident in, and they left their family identity behind, everything you are known for both good and bad. You will enter into the goodness of a new life, a new trust and confidence and a new identity. I*f you don't leave your life for the new life Jesus has for you, you will never walk in His goodness.*