

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: WEEK 7

GOODNESS

MEANING



**THE GREEK WORD FOR GOODNESS IS AGATHOSUNE (AGA-THO-SOON-AY).
AGATHOSUNE IS A ZEALOUS ACTIVITY
TO DO GOOD FOR ANOTHER PERSON'S BENEFIT.
GOODNESS, AS THE SIXTH CHARACTERISTIC OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.
THE WORDS GOOD AND GOODNESS APPEAR
MORE THAN 600 TIMES IN THE BIBLE.**

SCRIPTURE



MARK 10:17-18	ISAIAH 64:6	TITUS 3:5	1 PETER 1:13-16
ECCLESIASTES 7:20	1 PETER 1:13-16	EPHESIANS 4:11-12	MALACHI 3:6
PSALM 34:8	GENESIS 1:31	PSALM 145	PSALM 119:68
ROMANS 5:8	ROMANS 8:28-29	PSALM 52:1	HEBREWS 13:8
COLOSSIANS 1:15-19	PSALM 107:1-16	ROMANS 2:4	PSALM 31:19-20
LUKE 6:27-28	GALATIANS 6:1-6	MATTHEW 5:14-16	ROMANS 15:14

GOING DEEPER



GOODNESS:

- Goodness, as the sixth characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit.
- The words good and goodness appear more than 600 times in the Bible.
- It is sometimes defined as “**kindness**” or “**gentleness**” in English, but different Greek words for each are used.
- Gentleness/Kindness (Greek: **chrestotes**) is more passive, meaning it is also attributed to being forbearing (**longsuffering; patient**).
- The Greek word for goodness is **agathosune** (**aga-tho-soon-ay**).
- **Agathosune** is a zealous activity to do good for another person's benefit.
- In the English language “goodness” has a much broader meaning and denotes numerous synonyms, like moral excellence, good behavior, freshness, or competence.
- The root word of “goodness” is good.
- Good is used as a noun, adjective and adverb.



- The common idea in almost all of its uses is that it suggests a desirable quality, something commendable, reliable, welcome, enjoyable, beneficent, kind, noble, admirable, propitious, exemplary and very much welcome.
- In the word "goodness," the inner qualities of virtue, excellence of character, morality and attitude that we see in a person's behavior.
- In Greek, however, "goodness" has the specific meaning of being energized to act in a benevolent (on behalf of others) way.
- It implies that one can demonstrate goodness when exhorting or rebuking when it is for someone's good.
- It is "tough love" coupled with discipline, for the purpose of making someone better.
- Agathosune does not spare sharpness and rebuke to produce good in others.
- Thus, God can correct, sometimes very severely, and it is His goodness in action.
- Thus, parents can correct their child, and it is good because it helps produce a responsible adult.
- This is how we can see God correcting or chastising His children, sometimes in what we would think to be severe, BUT it is goodness in action to bring about change or transformation into the image of Jesus.
- No one is good except God, so it is the indwelling of God Himself in the believer's life that generates true, godly goodness.
- The Bible is clear that in and of ourselves, mankind is incapable of being or doing good.
- It is God who works in a believer's life to become more like Jesus which is the whole point of the fruit of the Spirit, to make us into the image of Christ.
- As the characteristic of goodness grows in a believer, it is acting out God's love to others by helping others.
- An act of goodness is not simply for the sake of being virtuous but for seeing others blessed by it.
- The Holy Spirit provides believers with spiritual gifts to edify, grow, teach, exhort, and minister for the perfecting of the saints (maturing, teaching), the work of the ministry (evangelism, reconciling others back to God), and to edify (build up, restore, refresh) other believers (Ephesians 4:11-12).
- Another way to look at goodness is that it is holiness put into action that results from knowing God.
- Such holiness can only come from God!
- We are called, separated out for a special purpose, to be holy as God is holy.

**THE GOODNESS OF GOD MEANS:**

- God, by nature, is inherently good.
- He is the ultimate example of goodness.
- He did not obtain it from another source; HE IS THE SOURCE!
- People can have good traits or do good deeds, but goodness is not in our nature; it does not come to us naturally. Our goodness can only come from God.

THE GOODNESS OF GOD DOES:

- The Goodness of God is evident in all His creations and accomplishments (Genesis 1:31).
- We cannot earn and do not merit His goodness.
- It is available to us just because of who God is (Psalm 145:9).
- God's goodness is personal.
- He is good to each of us personally, in ways that meet our individual needs (Psalm 119:68).
- God is our perfect role model; being good, demonstrating good, for the purpose of benefiting others, is what God demonstrated to all of mankind (Romans 5:8).
- Everything God brings into a believer's life ultimately is for our good to make us more like Jesus (Romans 8:28-29).
- God's goodness offers us security and encouragement (Psalm 52:1).
- God will always be good; His character DOES NOT change (Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6).

THE GOODNESS OF GOD IS:

- If you want to see God for who He really is, here's a good starting point.
- Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good (1 Chronicles 16:34).
- Taste and see that the Lord is good! (Psalm 34:8).
- Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him and praise His name! For the Lord is good and His love is eternal, and His faithfulness endures to all generations. (Psalm 100:4-5).
- When Moses boldly pleaded with God, "Please, show me Your glory," he was asking to see God for who He really is. "Show me as much as I can stand, Lord." God's response was to show Moses, through His glory, His goodness (Exodus 33:19-20).
- Jesus "is the image of the invisible God" as "God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him" (Colossians 1:15-19).
- Jesus is God's goodness in the flesh.

GOD REVEALS HIS GOODNESS:

- God's goodness is revealed through His creation, expressed through His created order.
- His creation demonstrates His goodness and that by sharing His goodness through nature, everyone experiences God's goodness.



- God shows goodness through His faithfulness to us.
- The psalmist tells us to “give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His faithful love endures forever” (Psalm 107:1-16).
- The psalmist retells the story of how God delivered His people, how He fed them when they were hungry, how He delivered them from their enemies, and how He saved them from their distress when they called upon Him.
- Because of God’s goodness and faithfulness to us, we can open our hearts and give Him thanks for His unfailing love and His deeds of goodness for mankind.

GOD’S GOODNESS CALLS FOR A RESPONSE:

- Believers are to recognize God’s goodness that leads mankind to repentance
- Without His demonstration of love through His goodness, there would be no salvation, no repentance, and only God’s judgment of wrath on sinful man.
- Because of God’s goodness, believers can be at rest, in God’s perfect peace, regardless of what is happening in their lives.
- As believers mature or grow in the characteristic of God’s goodness, provided by the Holy Spirit, it enables them to do good to those who hate them and demonstrate goodness to those in the household of faith
- A believer is to demonstrate goodness, even when confronting someone about a sin as it is benevolent — for the good of the other person — to restore him or her in fellowship with God.
- So, we can lovingly and in goodness admonish, instruct, teach, and correct because it is in the best interest/for the good of the person.
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us, we grow the characteristic of goodness.
- As others see our good works, they will praise our Father in Heaven.
- The Holy Spirit indwelling us allows us to experience the fullness of God’s goodness in the fullness of His time.
- When the Holy Spirit lives in us, seals us, and grows His fruit within us, we can state that we are full of goodness.
- It is HE who is good.
- It is HE who can transform us into good.
- It is the fruit of the Spirit that allows us to demonstrate zealous goodness to help and benefit others so that they may have a strengthened relationship with God Himself.

SCRIPTURE OF REFLECTION



GALATIANS 6:1-6:

1. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
2. Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.
3. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
4. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.
5. For each one shall bear his own load.
6. Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.



REFLECTION/NOTES

