

## HOW TO RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS by Ps Giet Khosa

### Definition

The Goodness of God is the perfection of His character which He exercises towards His creatures according to their various circumstances and relations (Psalms 145:8; Psalms 145:9; Psalms 103:8; 1 John 4:8; infinitely wise and sovereign moral perfection. God is not sometimes good and sometimes not good - He is good all the time. God is infinitely and unchangeably good (Zephaniah 3:17) and His goodness is incomprehensible in the mind (Romans 11:35 & 36). God's goodness appears in two things – in giving and in forgiving.

### What It Means

The Goodness of God is one of the attributes of God, as well as a description of His very essence. God, by nature, is inherently good, as Psalm 34:8 tells us: "Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him". He is the foundation of goodness and of everything good — the Goodness of God.

### What It Does

The Goodness of God is evident in all His creations and accomplishments. Genesis 1:31 says, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good..." We cannot earn and do not merit His goodness. It is available to us regardless of our station in life, even though we are not worthy of it. Matthew 5:45 says: "...He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." And we read in Psalm 145:9 that "The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."

**Numbers 21:4 - 5 (NKJV)** Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."

In this story we see the Goodness of God in action. The Children of Israel find themselves in a foreign land as slaves in the land of the Egyptians. A slave has no rights, none whatsoever. When you talk about abuse, the children of God had it in a big way. After all they were slaves to their masters, and were subjected to all kinds of abuse: physical, hard labour, being beaten up, very little food –almost starved, emotional abuse, they experienced it all there. This was suffering on another level - it cannot be compared to anything.

In their own eyes it looked like there is:

- No way out
- The suffering will go on forever
- God had forgotten about them
- Death was guaranteed, and yet
- Running away was never option

But God, because of His goodness, heard their cry and saw their suffering and intervened.



He sent Moses to lead them out of the land of suffering into a land of prosperity.

You see, you might be going through some challenges just like the Children of Israel and you are thinking: God there is no way out, God has forgotten about me, God won't come through for me, let me remind you child of God that God will never forget about you! Let me remind you that He is a good God and because of his Goodness he will see you through just like He did with the Children of Israel! Your help is on the way, lift your hopes up, lift your faith up, lift your praise up, lift your worship up, lift up your voice in thanksgiving up because help is on the way. Breakthrough is on the way! He is a good God, He is a loving God, He is a merciful God and he is a gracious God. He died for you and promised to never leave you nor forsake you.

In this story we see how the Children of Israel responded to the first challenge they came across. The Bible says they spoke against God and Moses. They quickly forgot that it was God who intervened in their suffering, that it was God who sent Moses, that it was God who opened the Red Sea, that it was God who provided manna for them, that it was God who provided the star at night, that it was God who provided clothing and it was God who provided water for them.

After all the things God did for them, the first challenge they came across they forgot everything He had done for them, they forgot about His Goodness, in fact they started speaking against God and Moses. You see, when you take your eyes off God's Goodness and focus on the problem, the problem becomes bigger.

As a result, they

- 1) became discouraged
- 2) became negative
- 3) They became complainers and murmurers

Death and life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Strife

Our Lips – Confession

**Proverbs 17:14 (NKJV)** The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

Pride

Pride demands that we have the last word.

Current state of affairs in our country:

1. Learners behaviour in the classroom
2. False prophets misusing the people of God
3. Governments failure to protect the vulnerable
4. Economic affairs, weak rand, rising prices, cost of living



I'm not sure how your year has been thus far, you may have gone through difficult times, financially, in your body, in your family, with your children and right now you are no longer speaking of the Goodness of God. The challenges you have been through have blinded you from seeing the Goodness of God.

Maybe you have fallen into the trap of negativity, maybe you are discouraged like the Children Israel, maybe you don't see the way out, maybe you have fallen into strife with people, maybe you think God has forgotten about you.

I'm here to remind you today, it is the Goodness of God that brought you here today. It was the Goodness of GOD that saw you through the year, it was the Goodness of God that provided for you, it was the Goodness of God that healed you, it was the Goodness of God that you are not dead today, there might be things that you don't even know that God has done for you!

Don't respond to challenges like the Children of Israel did; respond differently because there is a promise to you and me in the word of God.

Romans 5:20 "Where sin abounds, grace abounds much more."

God is fully aware what's going on in our life and in the country but He is cleaning it up.

**Acts 2:16,17 (NKJV)** But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.

For all the mess that's going on God has a plan and that involves you and me especially.

HOW SHOULD WE, you and I, THE BODY OF CHRIST RESPOND TO WHAT WE ARE SEEING?

But today I've come remind of His Goodness in your life that in the midst of all these things God has been good to you. We need to renew our minds with the Word of God.

**Psalm 95:1-3 (NKJV)** Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to him with psalms. For the Lord is the great God, and the great king above all Gods

Colossians 3:15-17 (NKJV)

**Here is our first response - to remember that in the first place it is Jesus who went to the cross to die for our sins**, redeem us from the miry clay and put our feet on the rock, he took out our hearts of stone and give us a new heart, a new song, cleansed us from all sins past, present and future sins AND gave us hope

That's where we start, remembering that we are in Christ, no matter what we go through He promises never to leave us nor forsake us, nothing can be compared to His love for us.

Grateful to be in Christ

Grateful to be a child of God



## **Second response - We respond to His goodness through praise and worship, most especially in difficult times**

**Acts 16:25-26 (NKJV)** About midnight Paul and Silas were and singing hymns to God and the other prisoners were listening to them, suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prisons were shaken, at once all the prison doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose.

Paul and Silas never spoke against God, never complained, never doubted the Goodness of God, never got discouraged by the challenge they faced but responded correctly to His Goodness in the midst of the challenge, they stood up by faith - worshipping and praising Him.

I don't know what you are going through today, what this year has been to you but what I know if you were to stand up by faith, if you were to open your mouth and praise Him and worship Him - I know one thing about God if He did it in the past He will do it again. God will go to the foundation of your problems, your challenges and your issues and He will shake them, He will release you from the prison of lack, sickness, depression and all sorts of things and He will set you free for good because of his Goodness.

**Thirdly thank Him for everything He has done for you.**

SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD WHEREVER YOU GO

**Philippians 4:4-7 (NKJV)** Rejoice in the lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to god; and the peace of god, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things.

**Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)** Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD WHEREVER YOU GO

- Thank God for Family
- Thank God for Friends
- Thank God for The Church

BECAUSE, HE IS

- Faithful to His Word
- Faithful to His Promises
- Our Healer
- Our Provider

