

THE
GOODNESS
of God:



A 3-DAY
EASTER DEVOTIONAL



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DAY 1: GOD IS GOOD to All

"The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." —Psalm 145:8–9

Have you ever met someone who is genuinely good? Maybe you have a parent or grandparent who treats you with overwhelming kindness—the kind of person who is there whenever you need them. If you need money, they will give it to you. If you need a car, they will loan you theirs. Anytime you go to their house, you can go straight to the refrigerator and grab whatever you want. They don't get angry when you mess up, because their love is clear in everything they say or do.

This is how God is. He *is* good. It's simply His nature. If you've experienced that kind of person, then it's probably easy to imagine God being that way. If you haven't, then you may not believe that kind of goodness exists. You might think, *How is God good to all? The world we live in is such a mess.*

But every morning you wake up and see the sun shining or the rain falling. This is evidence of God's goodness. The Bible says that God "gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike" (Matthew 5:45).

God is for you, not against you. He loves to give you good things. The Bible says He is faithful and kind. He's patient, so it takes a lot to make Him angry. He's also a gentleman. He doesn't force His love and kindness on anyone. He waits for people to invite Him into their lives.

He wants to show His goodness to you individually. He wants to show His love and care to your family. He wants to show His goodness to your neighborhood and your city. He wants to flood your life with His goodness and demonstrate His love and mercy to you. This is the heart of God. His goodness isn't only for you and your family or neighborhood, though. *It's for everyone.*

God had to find a way to give His goodness to the world. John 3:16–17 says, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."

God demonstrated His love for the world by sending His Son, Jesus. Believing in Jesus and receiving Him opens the door to God's goodness in your life. Continuing to believe in Him and receive Him keeps the flow of God's goodness operating in your life.

That's why Good Friday—the Friday before Easter—truly is good. It was the day God sent His Son to the Cross, so everyone could have the opportunity to know Him and His goodness personally. That's what Jesus did for you. As you celebrate this Good Friday, take time to remember God's plan of goodness for you.

PRAYER

God, thank You for Your goodness. Thank You that Jesus went to the cross for me, so I could know You personally. I invite You to bring Your goodness into my life. Open my eyes and show me more of Your goodness. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

DAY 2: GOD'S GOODNESS *In Salvation*

"[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross]." –Colossians 2:15 (AMPC)

When Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, He went to hell. Can you imagine? God's perfect Son—completely God, completely human, completely without any sin or shortcomings—went to hell to save humanity. While there, He defeated principalities and powers, and made a way for each person to experience salvation.

This word *salvation* is often misinterpreted. Some people have been taught that it is a one-time event. That's not the complete picture, though. Yes, salvation happens when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. It's the moment when you surrender your life to God and say, "Not my will, but Yours be done." It's a dramatic, life-changing event.

But here's the cherry on top of that sundae: Salvation doesn't only happen at the beginning of your relationship with God—when you find out you are going to heaven when you die. Salvation is ongoing. You're in a state of salvation every day.

Salvation includes deliverance from any kind of oppression—sickness, lack, danger, fear, anguish, anxiety, depression, addiction or anything else that would try to separate you from God's love. Jesus provided that freedom through His death and resurrection.

In addition, salvation provides benefits *for you*: protection, liberty, health, restoration, soundness and wholeness. All these continue to be part of your salvation. Scripture says God daily loads His people with the benefits of salvation (Psalm 68:19, KJV). Doesn't that make you want to wake up in

the morning and thank Him for the salvation He's providing today—the blessing, soundness, restoration and wholeness?

How do you access salvation? By faith. While Jesus paid the price for you to have all these benefits, you must access them by faith. You must believe for, stand for and trust that every element of salvation is yours. **This Easter, don't settle for anything less than everything Jesus provided.**

Think of it as a delivery that's been sent to you, but you must pick it up from the receiving center. The delivery belongs to you. It's yours. But until you make the effort to go to the center and retrieve it, it will sit there collecting dust.

Through Jesus, the benefits of salvation are yours. But it's up to you to access them. Some Christians have served God for years and never accessed all the benefits of salvation. They've continued to live with the symptoms of their old lives rather than experiencing the benefits of their new, redeemed lives.

Don't let that be you! Whether you've recently come into relationship with God or known Him for years, start reading and studying your Bible regularly to discover all that your salvation includes. Then begin thanking God for every precious promise of victory. No matter where you are in your walk of faith, you can grow and develop spiritually, experiencing all the wonderful benefits provided for you in salvation.

PRAYER

Father, I continue to thank You for my salvation. I ask You to show me everything You've provided for me through Your Son, Jesus. I stand in faith and determine not to miss even one benefit of my redemption. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

DAY 3: OPEN THE DOOR TO *God's Goodness*

"Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty; the LORD, invincible in battle. Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. Who is the King of glory? The LORD of Heaven's Armies—he is the King of glory."
—Psalm 24:8–10

At Easter children dress in their candy-colored clothes. Egg hunts happen all around town. Easter bunnies show up at local malls to pose with small children.

But is that really what this holiday is about? Not at all.

The day that many celebrate as Easter is really Resurrection Sunday. It's a time of remembering not only the sacrifice Jesus paid on Good Friday, but the celebration of Him overcoming sin and the grave three days later.

On that day, Jesus rose again! He paid the price for all humanity's sins at the Cross. The enemy thought he'd defeated God's plan, but Resurrection Sunday showed just how wrong he was.

On that day, not only did Jesus rise from the grave, but He also positioned God's people to be seated beside Him in heaven (Ephesians 2:6). He did that for you! It was all part of God's divine plan.

Within God's kingdom, there are governing laws. These are the principles on which heaven operates. When God's people come into alignment with those principles, they can partake of all the blessings of God. So many times, however, people don't realize they are opposing God and His ways, because either they don't know what God's Word says or they don't understand it.

When you take time to read and study the Word of God and apply it to your life, you are putting yourself in position to receive God's goodness. You are walking in a place where His mercy can reach you.

Remember on Day 1, you learned that God doesn't force His will on anyone. Each person must give God an open door to affect their life. If you're not opening a door to God, you are, often-times unknowingly, opening a door to the devil. He looks for any open door to invade and overwhelm a person's life (1 Peter 5:8).

That's what happens with addiction, isn't it? No one goes into addiction craving to let something—drugs, alcohol, pornography, lust, workaholicism or anything else—destroy their life. Somewhere along the way, they opened the door to that addiction. Once it gets a toehold, the enemy's destruction begins.

Jesus said in John 10:10 that the enemy's purpose "is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." Obeying God's principles, respecting His Word, and receiving His goodness always leads to a "rich and satisfying life."

Right now, as you celebrate this Resurrection Sunday and the wonderful life Jesus provided for you, take time to receive Communion. We've mailed you the short book *How to Receive Communion*, to help you better understand how to make the most of this holy practice. See page 9 of the book for a list of steps to take. Let this time of Communion be a connection point between you and God in receiving His goodness and every benefit of the salvation Jesus provided for you.

HAPPY RESURRECTION SUNDAY!

PRAYER

Father, I thank You for all that You provide through Your Son, Jesus. I celebrate His Resurrection and thank You that He is alive forevermore! I will follow Him and Your Word today and always. Show me Your ways, and guide and lead me into all truth. In Jesus' Name. Amen.