

Saturday, August 22, 2026

"It is quite striking that virtually all of the basic words describing salvation in the Bible imply a return to an originally good state or situation. So biblical goodness then is restoring back that which was broken in creation." (Al Waters, *Creation Regained*)

Look inward. What is good in your life that you can praise God for? What is "not good" or broken that you need God to heal?

Look upward. See how good God is. Do a Google search on the places in Scripture that tell of God's goodness and meditate on those verses. God is good! All the time! All the time! God is good!

Look outward. Where can you bring this goodness of God to bear in our world, no matter how mundane or ordinary your world might be.

Look forward. Remember that there is a time coming when God will restore all that is broken and set things right in the new heavens and the new earth. Let your heart fill with hope and trust that what this current age means for evil, God can work it towards the good.

WEEK 7



becoming

fruit of the Spirit summer series



"Becoming" • Week 7

Galatians 5:22 - *The fruit of the Spirit is...goodness....*

In such chaotic times as this current cultural moment, the Church has a different and better way of life to offer the world. The fruit of the Spirit is about living life by the Spirit of God in order to become the kind of person this world needs.

This series of devotionals is designed to take us deeper into what God has for us each week, based on the topic of the previous Sunday's teaching.

This week we explore the second fruit of the Spirit - goodness.

Instructions: this could be a simple format for your prayer time:

1. Begin with a prayer of approach, asking God to reveal himself to you and to take you deeper into relationship with him.
2. Come with an attitude of humility, submission, and learning, so that you're ready to obey what God says.
3. Pray the Scripture for that day. Read it slowly. What stands out to you? What strikes you? Read it a second time slowly.
4. Keep note throughout the day how you notice or experience goodness (or lack thereof) in your life. Be thinking about what you could share with someone else regarding the goodness and love of God.

Friday, August 21, 2026

Romans 12:19-21 (NLT)

¹⁹ *Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,*

"I will take revenge;

I will pay them back,"

says the Lord.

²⁰ *Instead,*

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them.

If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap

burning coals of shame on their heads."

²¹ *Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.*

What stands out to you in these verses?

Do you see the power that goodness has over the evil in this world (and even in our own hearts)? Who do you consider "enemies?" (a particular people group? the other political party? etc.)

How might you show them God's goodness today?

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Romans 12:9-13 (NLT)

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Paul gives the Church some very practical ways to be and do good to others. Which ones stand out to you in these verses?

What does the Lord want you to do about it today?

Monday, August 17, 2026

As with each of these fruit, the fruit of the Spirit of goodness flows from the very nature of who God. And fundamental to who God is the truth that God is good.

If you don't think God is good at the core of his being, and that he only does what is good, then you will have a hard time trusting his word and his work in your life.

Psalms 34:8-9 (NLT)

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

*⁹ Fear the LORD, you his godly people,
for those who fear him will have all they need.*

Take a moment to think of ways that God has been good to you. Let these bring you to a place of praise and love for him.

How we see God determines how we are going to live in the world. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see God as truly good.

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Part of understanding what goodness is, is the truth that it is a redemptive goodness. The adjective "redemptive" means "acting to save someone from error or evil."

Think again on the Joseph story in Genesis, especially 50:20 - "What you meant for evil, God intended for good." The brothers had their intentions for Joseph, but God had his own intentions for Joseph. (and for us)

What is "not good" for you right now? What is going on in your heart or soul that is not good? What is going on in the world that you consider not good? It's important to name those things. (Not ignore, deny, or bypass them.)

A couple of weeks ago, we practiced benevolent detachment - the act of releasing everyone and everything to God. Take those things that are "not good" in your life or in our world and practice giving them to God. Imagine opening your hand to give that thing or person to God.

When and if you find yourself picking that thing up again, simply notice that and give it right back to God.

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

We live in the reality that there are many forces in the world that have their own intentions for us. We do not live in a neutral world. We say yesterday, however, that God has his own intentions for us.

Spend a few minutes practicing benevolent detachment of those things that are weighing on your heart and soul. Release those people or those circumstances that are affecting you. You can say, "Jesus, I give everyone and everything to you. Jesus, I surrender everything to you - the news, my health, my kids. I give everyone and everything to you."

Invite the Holy Spirit to help you see the good that God has worked in your life. Name some of those things out loud.