



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Living in the Goodness of God

SPEAKER

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THEME Common Questions We Need Handles To

DATE

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

God is good...all the time. Do we have a picture of God or scripture that we carry in our heart or hold on to, so that we can say that God is still good even when times are hard? In today's sermon, Ps Hua Ken shares about God's character, his actions and how we can be certain in our hearts that our God is always a good God and how we can live in the goodness of God.

LIVING IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD

1) GOD'S CHARACTER – WHO GOD IS

- The Bible is full of descriptions that points to the kindness of God, His mercy, His steadfast love and His generosity. Being who He is, all that a Good God is, His disposition is always to give us more than we deserve all the time because He is good.
- The goodness of God is not just an intellectual understanding that we keep in our mind. Instead, it is something that we can experience in our life (Ps 34:8). For example, God revealed His goodness to Moses when Moses asked Him to reveal his glory (Exo 33:18)
- We give thanks to God and praise Him because God is good (1 Chron 16:34, Ps 100:4-5)

2) GOD'S ACTIONS – WHAT GOD DOES SHOWS HIS GOODNESS

- All that comes from God - His decrees, his creation, his laws, his providences cannot be otherwise than good.
- **God's decrees (i.e. his laws) are good.** If we take heed of what the Word of God teaches us, meditate on it and apply it in our lives, His Word will bring us fruitfulness in our lives and whatever we do will prosper (Ps 1:1-3)
- **God's creation is always good.** "And God saw that it was good" is repeated 7 times in Gen 1. God not only is good in Himself, creation and all that He created is very good (Gen 1:31) because He is a good God.
- **God's goodness is found in his providences** (i.e. God's kind intervention in our lives). God, our Shepherd, cares for his sheep so that we are always taken care of:

- Provision – We will not lack because God is our provider and He will provide all that we need in life (Ps 23:1)
- Relax – God will help us to deal with stress and be able to relax and enjoy his presence (Ps 23:2)
- Strength and guidance – God will give us strength and direction in our lives (Ps 23:3)
- Protection – God’s eyes is always upon us because He loves us and He wants to protect us. When we go astray, He will pull us back.
- Favour in our lives (Ps 23:5)
- Hope for the future - Despite the challenges and problems we face in life, the goodness and mercy of God will still follow us everyday and all the days of our lives. God also gives us a future, a heavenly place in store for us. (Ps 23:6)

3) WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN, HOW CAN WE STILL SEE GOD’S GOODNESS IN OUR LIVES?

- When bad things happen, can we still see the goodness of God?
- God is **not** the direct source of sickness or all the evil, accidents, wickedness and calamities on the earth. The source of our pain and suffering could be:
 - Common to man - we live in a fallen world
 - Due to the evil one. The evil one comes to kill, steal and destroy but Jesus came so that we may have life abundantly (Jn 10:10). If we are going through a hard time and we know that it is the enemy that is attacking us, we need to stand in faith appropriating the Word of God in our lives and applying the blood of Jesus (Rev 12:11).
 - Due to our own ‘faults’ (i.e. our sins, weaknesses, blind spots and so on) and hence the consequences we need to face.
 - For righteousness sake.
- One of the strategies of Satan is to cause us to doubt God’s goodness. When bad things happen, we must not panic and give in to fear. Instead, we anchor ourselves in the goodness and grace of God, focusing on the scriptures and the good things that God has done in our lives. As we anchor ourselves on who God is, we rest in the fact that we have a clear mind on what we should do. We also need to connect with the Body-Life so that in such difficult times, we are not alone.

4) GOODNESS OF GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS

- Good Friday is good because it is the ultimate expression of the goodness of God. God sent his Son to die on the cross for you and me, so that in believing in Jesus Christ, the goodness of God is available for us anywhere and anytime for us all the time.

CONCLUSION

When we go through suffering, pain and difficult times, it is always easy and natural to doubt the goodness of God. But the Bible clearly explains and describes to us that our God is uniquely good and that by Him is the measure of all things to be good - that is who our God is. So let us continue to sing of the goodness of God and by faith, declare that every situation will work out for good because we have a good God.

QUESTIONS

1. God is good...all the time. How have you experienced God's goodness in the past (e.g. in his Word, provision, guidance, protection, favour etc)?

2. Is there a specific painful or difficult circumstance or situation where you doubt God's goodness? Share with another member and encourage each other on how you can anchor yourself in the goodness and grace of God.

3. What are some specific ways in which God is calling you to reflect His goodness to others in your life?