

GOODNESS OF GOD

God-image of our heart matters

The picture of God that we carry in our hearts is critical, especially in challenging times. When we think of the person of God, do we see Him as being good or as being cruel? Do we see Him as being for us or against us?

We develop a picture of God from our experiences, what others say about Him and several other sources. This may or may not be the real nature of God. The true nature of God is revealed in:

1. Creation reveals His nature (Romans 1:20–23, Psalms 19:1-3)
2. The Word of God reveals His nature (2 Tim 3:16)
3. Jesus Christ is the exact representation of the nature of God (Hebrews 1:3)

God has several remarkable attributes or characteristics. He has a personality, the way you and I have. He is all powerful, self-existent, all knowing, omnipresent, infinite yet personal, immutable, unchangeable and so much more. His nature is also revealed by His names.

Jehovah Elohim: Supreme God (Genesis 2:4)

Jehovah Jireh: The Lord will provide (Genesis 22:14)

Jehovah Rapha: The Lord my healer (Exodus 15:26)

Jehovah Shalom: The Lord is my peace (Judges 6:24)

Jehovah Tsidkenu: The Lord our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)

Jehovah Rohi: The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23:1)

Jehovah Sabaoth: The Lord of hosts (Psalms 24:10)

Jehovah Shammah: The Lord is there (Ezekiel 48:35)

Jehovah Nissi: The Lord is my banner (Exodus 17:15)

Moses wanted to know God better. Though He had seen many powerful acts of God, he made a request from His heart that he be able to see the glory of God. Glory (Hebrew, *kâbôd*), means *weighty, splendor or copiousness, honor*, in other words, the glory of God is who God is and what He does.

Exodus 33:18-19

18 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

God responded. In revealing His glory, God began by revealing His goodness first.

Good (Hebrew, toob) beauty, gladness, welfare

God is a good God!

There is no evil in Him. He is good entirely.

He cannot sin (James 1:13), He cannot lie (Titus 1:2), He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13). His goodness is consistent because God never does anything contrary to His nature. He was good and will always be good.

God's works are good (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 21, 25, 31, Gen 2:9)

4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.(Genesis 1:4)

God's gifts are good

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (James 1:17)

God is good to all

45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Matthew 5:45

His dealings with Israel

He demonstrated a heart of mercy despite the rebellion of Israel
Isaiah 1:16-20

We enjoy His blessings daily

***19 Blessed be the Lord,
Who daily loads us with benefits,
The God of our salvation! Selah
Psalm 68:19***

Greatest expression of the goodness of God is Jesus

In Jesus, we see the love of God

1 John 4:8 – God is love

John 3:16 – God demonstrated sacrificial love, because He gave His only Son

Gal 4:4 – Jesus came to redeem

God did not resign mankind to the fate of eternal condemnation. He made a way out through Jesus Christ. God became a man.

***For thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
"I dwell in the high and holy place,
With him who has a contrite and humble spirit,
To revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.
Isaiah 57:15***

***3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
Genesis 1:3***

**11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness,
The power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty;
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
And You are exalted as head over all.
1 Chronicles 29:11**

**26 "Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him;
Nor can the number of His years be discovered.
Job 36:26**

He is great, lofty and the Holy one.
He is Almighty, he spoke the world into existence.
Everything belongs to Him and He is head over all things.
It's hard to fully understand the greatness of God and His existence.

Hebrews 2:17
**17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful
and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the
people.**

Yet, God chose to become a man and share in the weaknesses of humanity.
Sin wasn't found in Him. He overcame every temptation and is able to help us in whatever
we are going through. Jesus humbled Himself, so you and I can be lifted up.
He became the perfect sacrifice for our sins, to set us free.

What a great God! What a good God!

Jesus is the exact representation of the Father. We can understand the heart of the Father
by observing and learning from the nature of Jesus.

**3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person,
and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our
sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Hebrews 1:3**

Jesus revealed the nature and the works of the Father. He never said or did anything that
wasn't in the heart of God. That's why we see Jesus going about doing good and not evil.

**38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went
about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
Acts 10:38**

**23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.
Mathew 4:23**

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

John 14:9

Here are some responses Jesus had to people and situations:

1. Forgiveness

Woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11)

Paralyzed man forgiven and healed (Mathew 9: 1-7)

2. Compassion

Jesus was moved with compassion towards the crowds (Mathew 9:35-39)

A leper healed (Mark 1:41)

Two blind men healed (Mat 20:29-34)

A young man raised from the dead (Luke 7:11-16)

3. Father's works (John 5:17)

Jesus did the works of the Father, which are works of power such as healings, deliverances and miracles. Nearly all of these were a response to the needs of people.

- *Jesus Healed* (Mathew 4:23-25, Luke 5)
- *Jesus Delivered* (Mark 1:21-28, Luke 8:26-39)
- *Jesus performed Miracles*
 - Jesus changed water into wine (John 2:1-11) – He demonstrated power over time.
 - Peter's great haul of fishes (Luke 5:1-11) – He demonstrated power over lack.
 - Feeding the 5000 (Mathew 15:29-39) – He demonstrated supernatural multiplication of little.

Ultimately, in completing the mission that God gave Him, Jesus died on the Cross. He bore the pain, agony, shame and rejection of the Cross, so you and I can experience the goodness of God to full measure. His death has brought us:

1. Salvation (great salvation, Hebrews 2:11)

Salvation (Greek, sōzō) means to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction.

The same word is used for forgiveness of sins, healing, deliverance and our protection.

We can walk in all of these.

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

Even today **God heals; he doesn't put sickness on people.**

Sickness in any form is not from God.

We find it easier to believe that God forgives our sins...but, difficult to believe that God heals the sick. He is the same God who does both.

2. God accepts us

The sinner can be brought to repentance because of the goodness of God (Romans 2:4)
We can be redeemed from ungodly ways of our ancestors, purified and walk as God's own special people (Titus 2:14)

3. We can overcome

We are redeemed from the curse of the law (Gal 3:13)
We overcome fear (1 John 4:18)

4. Our lives can be restored and renewed

Even if things have gone wrong for some reason, He is able to work things together for our good (Romans 8:28)
God is able to save us to the uttermost (Hebrews 7:25)
He brought us abundant lives (John 10:10)

God is for us!

Jesus said that in this world we would have tribulation (John 16:33)
We may go through different challenges, but it's important to know that God is for us!
***31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
Romans 8:31***

When bad things happen

While we are clear about the heart of God for man, here are some more **important truths** that we must understand:

Sin is destructive (Romans 6:23)
Sin has consequences because God is good and God is also a just God.
He cannot leave sin unpunished.

The world is corrupted by sin (Romans 8:21, 2 Peter 1:4). This began in the Garden of Eden. The world faces consequences of this, and we see the results in various ways eg: natural disasters, sicknesses, famines, earthquakes etc.

Satan is actively engaged in destruction. He is active on the earth till his given time (Revelation 12:12, Matthew 8:29, Luke 8:22–25, Revelation 20:10, 14)

Sometimes what we face are consequences of our actions or actions of others. When we walk outside the boundary of God's Word, without repentance consequences follow.

God does bringing loving correction to us. This is for our benefit.

He does not use sickness to do this. God is righteous and just (Psalm 145:17, Isaiah 30:18)

When bad things happen, one thing is for sure...It is not God who puts evil on us. When we have this understanding, we can actively resist whatever is not from God (James 4:7). We filter our thoughts to let words of faith remain. We speak faith and overcome by faith.

God is for us
He has good plans for us
God wants to do good to us and bring us out of any evil that you and I may be facing.
He wants to save, forgive, heal, deliver and protect us!

Express your hope in God

God wants to do good to us.

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:32

We must get a revelation of His goodness and confess His faithfulness

David declared the faithfulness of God-

10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;

For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Psalms 9:10

Job declared-

25 For I know that my Redeemer lives,

And He shall stand at last on the earth;

Job 19:25

In dire or unfavourable circumstances, we need to know that God is on our side.

How can we walk with a similar revelation of the goodness of God?

1. Develop intimacy with God

Know Him deeply, hear His voice, feel His pleasure.

Know that God's heart for us is good.

We can come boldly into the presence of God knowing that He hears us. Hebrews 4

2. Desire His goodness

Expect the promises of God

3. Remember His goodness

4. Be firm in His goodness

Habakkuk 3:2-3, we press in

5. Gratitude & Worship

Psalms 100:3

Know that the Lord, He is God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

We are not self-made.

We are who we are because of God and His goodness

6. Extend the goodness to others

3 John 1:11

Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

God is for us!

We must be convinced that God is a good God & He is faithful.

Believe the Word above circumstances.

God is good every day, all the time.

This picture of God is the anchor in every storm.

This determines our response to life.

This will help our hearts explode with faith, no matter what happens.

Salvation Call

Salvation is a free gift of God.

Receive what Jesus has done on the Cross for you.

Speaking Shalom

Shalom (peace) means more than freedom from conflict; it means prosperity, health, well-being, and faith in the face of conflict. Jesus give us peace (John 14:27)

We could be going through lack, confusion, sickness, loneliness or just have a whole lot of questions as to why this or that happened...I would like to encourage you with the truth that God is a good God. He does good to us. Put your faith in Him as we pray together. We believe that we will see the situation turn around in Jesus name.

(Reference: APC Publication, God is a Good God)



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>