

Trusting in the Goodness of our God

One of the most oft-repeated statements of thanksgiving in Scripture is this:

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is **good**;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

(1Chron16:34, 2Chron5:13, 2Chron7:3, Ezra3:11, Ps100:5, Ps106:1, Ps107:1, Ps118:1, 29, Ps136:1, Jer33:11)

Is God's goodness the constant theme of your thanksgiving? If you were writing that statement, how might you complete it?

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for _____ .

What do your answers indicate about how you see God? What do they reveal about your heart?

In all these verses, God's goodness is tied to his steadfast love. The Hebrew word translated "steadfast love" (in the ESV) is *hesed*, which does not have a single equivalent word in English, but is translated as lovingkindness, mercy, faithfulness, and unfailing love, and speaks of God's covenant loyalty of undeserved kindness to his people. **How does this idea—of God's *hesed* enduring forever—help you understand his goodness more clearly?**

What can you learn from these other Scriptures that put goodness and *hesed* together?

Psalm 23:6 Surely **goodness** and *hesed* shall follow me all the days of my life...

Psalm 25:7 ...according to your *hesed* remember me, for the sake of your **goodness**, O LORD!

Psalm 86:5 For you, O Lord, are **good** and forgiving, abounding in *hesed* to all who call upon you.

Isaiah 63:7 I will recount the *hesed* of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great **goodness** to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his *hesed*.

Write out a prayer of thanksgiving rejoicing in the goodness of your God.

In Psalm 119, the psalmist expresses great trust in the goodness of God when he ties God's goodness together with the affliction (or suffering) he has experienced.

You have dealt well with your servant,

O LORD, according to your word.

Before I was afflicted I went astray,

but now I keep your word.

You are **good** and do **good**;

teach me your statutes.

It is good for me that I was afflicted,

that I might learn your statutes.

Psalm 119:65, 67, 68, 71

When you are in the midst of suffering, loss, or pain, how are you tempted to respond to the goodness of God?

How does this truth—that God is both good in his character and good in his action—bring comfort to your soul?

What can you learn from these other Scriptures that speak of the good intent of God's heart toward his people?

Genesis 50:20 ...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for **good**...

Deuteronomy 8:16 ...humble you and test you, to do you **good** in the end.

Ezra 8:22 The hand of our God is for **good** on all who seek him...

Psalm 73:1 Truly God is **good** to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

Psalm 84:11 No **good** thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Jeremiah 32:41 I will rejoice in doing them **good**, and I will plant them in this land with faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

Lamentations 3:25 The Lord is **good** to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

Matthew 7:11 ...how much more will your Father who is in heaven give **good** things to those who ask him!

Hebrews 12:10 ...but he disciplines us for our **good**, that we may share his holiness.

By faith, rest in God's goodness to you, even in your suffering:

God, I trust you *are* good and you will *do* good to me, even in _____.