



“The Fruit of the Spirit is GOODNESS!” ***HOW TO BE A FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN SERIES (Part 5)***

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control.***

Galatians 5:22-23

> **GOODNESS defined:** The quality of being good; praiseworthy character; moral excellence. God's goodness consists of righteousness, holiness, justice, kindness, grace, mercy, and love. Goodness is also one of the fruits of the Spirit that should characterize Christian believers. (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

- The word “good” or “goodness” is found 744 times in the Bible.

> Let's learn about “Good vs. Evil” from the beginning – Genesis Chapters 2 – 4:1-12.

> **Observe God's “GOODNESS” in the Old Testament:**

Ex 18:9- Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the LORD had done for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians.

Ps 23:6 - Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Ex 33:19 - 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."

Ps 31:19 - Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men!

Jer 31:14 – “And My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the LORD.”

Hosea 3:5 - Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.

> **Observe various usages of “good” in the New Testament:**

- Jesus is good! – John Ch. 10

- Romans 2:4 - "***The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.***"

- Christians are to be "***full of goodness.***" (Romans 15:14)

- Christian leadership must have goodness – Acts 6:1-7

- Christians are to fellowship "***in all goodness and righteousness and truth***" (Ephesians 5:1-14)

- Christians are to persevere through trials and persecution with “goodness” according to 2 Thessalonians Ch. 1.

> **OBSERVE 8 POINTS TO OUR GOOD WORKS:**

(1) **In testimony** - Acts 9:36-37 - *At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.*

(2) **In encouragement for women** - 1 Timothy 2:9-10 - *that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.*

(3) **In exhortation for the rich** - 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - *Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

(4) **In young men** - Titus 2:6-7 - *Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works*

(5) **In zeal** - Titus 2:14 - *that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

(6) **In maintaining** - Titus 3:8 - *This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.*

(7) **In stirring up one another** - Hebrews 10:24-25 - *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

(8) **In our witness** - 1 Peter 2:12 - *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

GOD IS GOOD! SO, LET'S BE GOOD FOR GOODNESS SAKE!!!