



with
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thankful



SD#141 How God's Goodness Impacts Our Gratitude, Part 1

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James 1:17 (ESV) *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”*

Reflection Questions:

- 1) Where do you struggle to see God's goodness in your life?
- 2) Are there things you need to surrender to experience His joy?
- 3) What are some mindsets you need to let go?



Seeing Deep Ministries

Extended Devotion:

There is a popular phrase, even among believers. “*Why do bad things happen to good people?*” I admit that I have even spoken these words a few times. It’s hard when we’re just trying to live out our faith, and then a series of terrible circumstances steal our joy. But God does not promise a life of ease when we follow Him. We will have trials and tribulations. Despair will target us and threaten our gratitude for God’s goodness at every turn. But we can stand firm and claim that His steadfast love endures forever.

There are some songs and quotes that remind us that God is good in the valleys and the mountain tops. How true that is indeed! James reminds us that although we’re walking through trials or suffering temptation, every good gift comes from our Heavenly Father. He always remains the same. When we encounter various trials and suffering, we can look all around at His good and perfect gifts and be reminded of His abundant goodness. We simply have to relinquish the mindsets that hold us back and whisper the lies of doubt. These mindsets keep us from growing in our faith.

When we surrender our faith, our feelings will follow. While today’s culture encourages us to follow our hearts and feelings, God’s Word encourages us to stand on His promises and pursue a deeper faith. There is no shadow of change in our Heavenly Father’s character. He is constant, loving, and steadfast. He is good.

I Chronicles 16:34 (ESV) says, “Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!” It’s easy for us to embrace despair and focus on our hurt when we face trials. But it’s in those trials that we experience more opportunities to empty ourselves and embrace all the ways that God is good. May we take every opportunity to thank Him for His enduring love and faithfulness to all generations.

Application:

1. If you have a favorite verse that reminds you of God’s goodness, take a moment and write it now. Or, feel free to write down I Chronicles 16:34. Spend a few moments and meditate on all the ways God is good in your life.
2. Think of at least five things you love and write them down. Write a brief prayer thanking God for each of these things.

Takeaway:

When we focus our minds on God’s goodness, we see gratitude grow.

