

BIBLE STUDY SERIES:

TRUSTING THE FATHER

**CHARACTER & NATURE OF GOD:
“GOOD”**

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CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “GOOD”

INTENTION:

When we think of God, we do not always think of Him as being a good person—as we would ourselves judge a person we see or meet living in this world. We oftentimes give more “good” credit to people around us than to God.

Yet it is God that lives up to His own “Good” standard and will always Himself follow the guidelines He gives us.

Additionally, we can falsely assume that even if God sends hurricanes, earthquakes, famine, or hardship on me, that this is somehow “good” of God to do out of some mysterious, incomprehensible plan He has.

But we will learn that God’s true nature of “Good” does not involve such trauma and hardship. Good actually means it is wonderful, pleasing, glad, happy, kind, prosperity, etc. This is the God we need to know!

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “GOOD”

Bible Study: Lesson 001 (Character and Nature of God, Part 1)



I. TOPIC (PART 1 – GOOD):

We want to look at the Character and Nature of God as “Good”.

This four-part series will look into, and help to clarify, whom God is. Oftentimes, we may feel we don’t know what God is doing, can do, or will do in our lives or this world. We may think one day He is out to bless me; and the next, out to ‘get’ me. Leaving us wondering if He even cares for us.

For many of us, how we perceive our own earthly dad is how we also portray God.

This applied to me as I grew up with the notion that God was always disappointed in me, never heard my voice / thoughts / opinions, was angry with me, controlling, abusive, unpredictable, and loving / caring.

As such, I complicated God into some “multiple-personality being” that I could not trust in any fashion, because I never “knew” what He was going to do or how He was going to react—whether I did something wrong or not.

The way I, as a child, perceived (feared) my own dad, I feared God. So much so, that if I messed up (sinned), I would pre-emptively punish myself before God punished me—like sleeping on the hard floor for a week instead of the comfy bed. All to save me from getting (“God giving me”) a flat tire, having my photography negatives stolen, or finding myself in a financial bind. I really thought it was God doing those things to me for the “error of my ways”.

And this is how I also interpreted scripture—enforced, as well, by the “Christian religion” (church) I was in.

If God was punishing me (bringing me harm), how could I ever see Him as good or loving? Or even worse, I defined good and loving as Him being able to punish me (bring misfortune on my life). But is God like that (like my dad / like so many people we experience in this world), as being confused and short-tempered? NO!

We can know He is not through the example of Him that is Christ Jesus. Jesus only did what He saw His Father (God) do. And never did we see Jesus punish someone for their sins. He even admitted that He did not come to Judge, and neither was His Father (God) Judging us.

God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) are “Three-in-One”—in that although they are three separate beings, they each follow the same principal. One cannot do what another does not do; nor not do what the other does. They each have a role and function, yet they cannot and will not contradict each other. This is why Jesus said a “Kingdom divided cannot stand”. If they did not think alike, act alike, and be alike, they would be a Kingdom divided (not united); and always be at odds with one-another. And who would “win” the discrepancy???

So, if we ever see something in our lives, or hear someone say something about God that does not align with what Jesus demonstrated, it is not “good” nor of God. We can then see that “good” is not sickness, disease, birth-defects, misfortune, hardships, war, natural disasters (storms, drought, famine), lack, nor death.

When God creates something (as we will read in Genesis 1:1-26), He will claim it as “good”. That being perfect and without flaw. So, if we see something that is flawed in us or the world, we can know it is not of or from Him.

He is Love too (and not a confusing kind of Love, one that can be clearly seen and experienced). He only desires us to have the most in life—for He gave His only Son in exchange for us that we may have Life and Life more abundantly! He also gave His Holy Spirit to us, with the Gifts and Fruit provided by Him.

We will dig into better understanding the character and nature of God through these 4 parts:

1. The first part looks at what it means that God is “Good”.
2. The second part is looking at God as “Love”.
3. The third part is looking at God as “Jesus”.
4. The fourth part is looking at God as the “Holy Spirit”.

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When we see these aspects of whom He is, it will alleviate any cause for fear of Him and be able to see Him as Jesus did: His Father. And, as a believer, you are His child (son/daughter) just as Jesus is to God—you are Jesus’s brothers and sisters...how awesome is that! And this same Father treats you the exact same way He treated His own Son Jesus: with Love, Care, and someone He is “well pleased” with.

Let’s come to an understanding that “God is for us and not against us”, and that He is not out to punish us.

When you go through the following scripture reading, focus on the times God says something is “good”. This term “good” really is what it means, without the notion of hurt or pain. The Hebrew word is:

Good – [H2896: towb](#)

1. good, pleasant, agreeable
 - a. pleasant, agreeable (to the senses)
 - b. pleasant (to the higher nature)
 - c. good, excellent (of its kind)
 - d. good, rich, valuable in estimation
 - e. good, appropriate, becoming
 - f. better (comparative)
 - g. glad, happy, prosperous (of man's sensuous nature)
 - h. good understanding (of man's intellectual nature)
 - i. good, kind, benign
 - j. good, right (ethical)
2. a good thing, benefit, welfare
 - a. welfare, prosperity, happiness
 - b. good things (collective)
 - c. good, benefit
 - d. moral good
3. welfare, benefit, good things
 - a. welfare, prosperity, happiness
 - b. good things (collective)
 - c. bounty

Then think about what that means to you, and if you feel you define God in this “Good” way.

II. **READING:** [Genesis 1:1-26](#) (NLT)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

3 Then God said, “Let there be Light,” and there was Light. 4 And God saw that the Light was good. Then he separated the Light from the darkness. 5 God called the Light “day” and the darkness “night.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

6 Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” 7 And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. 8 God called the space “sky.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

9 Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. 10 God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. 12 The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

14 Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. 15 Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. 16 God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, 18 to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

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20 Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.” 23 And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. 25 God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

- Refer also: Bible Study Lessons 012-017 – Tabernacle (Body, Mind, Soul, Heart, Spirit)

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Isaiah 61:1](#) / [Luke 4:18-19](#) (NLT) {PoG}

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news {*Gospel*} to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken-hearted and to proclaim that captives will be released, and prisoners will be freed.

Question: How is this “Good News”? In what ways can you or have you spoken “good news” to someone?

Response:

B. [Psalms 23:6](#) (NLT)

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Question: Do you feel that God follows you with anger and wrath; would that make you want to dwell with God?

Response:

C. [Psalms 34:8](#) (NLT)

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

Question: Have you experienced (“tasted and seen”) in your own life that the Lord is good? How have you trusted (taken refuge) in the Lord, and have seen it come through in your life?

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Response:

D. [Luke 12:29-32](#) (NLT)

“And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. 30 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. 31 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. 32 “So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.”

Question: Does God want to give to you? Have you ever feared something that never came to pass?

Response:

E. [John 10:10-11](#) (NLT)

The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

- Refer also: Bible Study Lesson 029 – The Thief (Discernment & Battle)

Question: Does God “steal, kill, and destroy”? How has the Lord been a good Shephard in your life ([Psalms 23](#))?

Response:

F. [Romans 2:4b](#) {PoG}

It is the Goodness of God that leads to repentance.

Question: Do you fear the Lord when you do something wrong?

Response:

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G. [Galatians 5:22-23](#) (NLT) {PoG}

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, {faith}, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things.

- *Refer also: Bible Study Lesson 007 – Faith & Belief / Unbelief
Bible Study Lesson 044 – Our Duality (Flesh & Spirit)*

Question: Do you feel the Holy Spirit provides you with all these gifts?

Response:

H. [Philippians 1:6](#) (NLT)

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

- *Refer also: Bible Study Lesson 023 – Salvation / Saved*

Question: Is there something the Lord is perfecting in you every day?

Response:

I. [Philippians 4:8](#) (NLT)

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Question: Why should we think (meditate) on these things?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Philemon 1:6](#) (NLT) {PoG}

And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you {correctly} understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.

- *Refer also: Bible Study Lesson 051 – {Correct} Knowledge*

