

NOTES & OUTLINE—THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS THE GOODNESS OF GOD

HOW DO WE ACCEPT AND UNDERSTAND THE GOODNESS OF GOD?

I. When we walk by the Spirit, we will be led by the Spirit, and then and only then are we able to accept and understand biblical instruction concerning the goodness of God.

- A. Being led by the Spirit, we will now prefer biblical instruction over the satisfaction of our natural mind and its lower desires, Galatians 5:16–24.
- B. Being led by the Spirit, we are freed from an “earning” mindset and live with a “grace” or “gift” mindset, and in that spiritual context, the Spirit produces his fruit in our lives, Galatians 5:18–23.
- C. Being led by the Spirit identifies us as those who belong to Christ Jesus, 5:24.

(Galatians 5:24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Those who belong to Christ receive the perspective of Scripture ...

1. This person is now identified as one who belongs to Christ Jesus.
2. This person actively opposes and intentionally restricts the influence of the desires of his flesh in his life.
3. This person has not only changed the direction of his life by moving toward the desires of God and away from the desires

of his flesh, but he will now actively oppose his previous mindset, desires and direction.

Those who belong to Christ possess a readiness from their obedience to Scripture ...

1. We are now ready to accept and understand that **only God is good.**

(Luke 18:18–19 ESV) And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

2. We are now ready to accept and understand that on our own **none of us is righteous.**
3. We are now ready to accept and understand that on our own **none of us understands.**
4. We are now ready to accept and understand that on our own **none of us seeks God.**
5. We are now ready to accept and understand that on our own **none of us does good.**

(Romans 3:10–12 ESV) As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

6. **We are now ready to accept and understand that we must walk in God’s good way and that we must pay attention to the warnings of God.**

(Jeremiah 6:16–17 ESV) Thus says the LORD: “Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and

walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ 17 I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not pay attention.’”

(Isaiah 53:6a ESV) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way ...

(Isaiah 55:6–9 ESV) Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

HOW DO WE WALK IN THE WAY OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD?

II. When we walk by the Spirit, we will be led by the Spirit, and then and only then are we able to accept biblical direction as to how to live lives of goodness before God.

- A. We walk in the way of the goodness of God when we revere God and take refuge in him.

**(Psalm 31:19–20 ESV) Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind! 20 In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men; you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.*

(Psalm 34:8 ESV) Oh, taste and see that the

LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

(Psalm 16:1–2 ESV) Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. 2 I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

- B. We walk in the way of the goodness of God when we wait for the Lord.

(Lamentations 3:25–29 ESV) The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. 26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. 27 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. 28 Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him; 29 let him put his mouth in the dust— there may yet be hope.

1. The one who waits for the Lord is the one who seeks him in times of distress.
2. The one who waits for the Lord is the one who waits in quietness for the Lord’s rescue.
3. The one who waits for the Lord is the one who is willing to sit in silence alone and wait for him when the hard things of life are laid on him.
4. The one who waits for the Lord is the one who humbles himself and hopes in God alone.

- C. We walk in the way of the goodness of God when we are not overcome by evil.

(Romans 12:17–21 ESV) Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will

heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(1 Thessalonians 5:15 ESV) See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

1. We never repay evil for evil.
 2. We give thought to living honorably in the sight of all.
 3. If possible, we live peaceably with all.
 4. We accept that vengeance is the Lord’s.
 5. Accepting and obeying the previous we are not overcome by evil.
- D. We walk in the way of the goodness of God when we are able to distinguish good from evil.

1. We are able to distinguish good from evil by constant practice.

(Hebrews 5:14 ESV) But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

2. We are able to distinguish good from evil when we come to the light.

(John 3:19–21 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

- E. We walk in the way of the goodness of God when we do good not evil.

(3 John 11 ESV) Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

- F. We walk in the way of the goodness of God when we hold fast to what is good and avoid and abhor every form of evil.

(1 Thessalonians 5:19–22 ESV) Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

(Romans 12:9 ESV) Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

- G. We walk in the way of the goodness of God when we seek and love good and hate evil.

(Amos 5:14–15 ESV) Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. 15 Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

- H. We walk in the way of the goodness of God when we don’t do good only for our own selfish benefit.

(Luke 6:32–33 ESV) If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

HOW DO WE ABOUND IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD?

III. When we walk by the Spirit, we will bear fruit and abound in good works.

- A. God’s grace will abound to us so that we will abound in every good work.

(2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

- B. God’s word will complete and equip us for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:16–17 ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- C. We will walk in the good works which God has prepared for us.

(Ephesians 2:8–10 ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- D. We will walk worthy of the Lord and bear fruit in every good work.

(Colossians 1:10 ESV) So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

- E. We will cleanse ourselves to be ready for every good work.

(2 Timothy 2:21 ESV) Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

- F. We will be models of good works.

(Titus 2:7 ESV) Show yourself in all respects to

be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity.

- G. We will be trained and eager to serve our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

(Titus 2:11–14 ESV) For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- H. We will be submissive to governing authorities and obedient and ready for every good work.

(Titus 3:1–3 ESV) Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. 3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

- I. We will be careful to devote ourselves to good works.

(Titus 3:8 ESV) The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

(Titus 3:14 ESV) And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.