

Unshakable Faith

The eighth plank we are going to place on our bridge of our bridge of Unshakable faith is God's Goodness.

God is good even in seasons of difficulty. God is good even in the midst of chaos and mayhem. God is good even in the midst of covid 19. God is good when we have troubles, sickness and death. God is good in the midst of adversity and even when evil abounds. God is good. When you speak of someone being good, we are referring to a character trait. When we say someone is good, we are making a comparison between good and bad. When bad things happen to good people, many point their finger at God and say, "It's your fault." It's God's fault that there are so many problems. Many question God's goodness. Many wonder if there is a God, especially when bad things happen.

We look at the world around us and every day the problems we face in our nation and around the world seem to be getting bigger and bigger: more rioting, more murder, more people encroaching on our borders, more sickness, more crime, more ungodliness, on and on... but wait, is it God's fault? Is He to blame? In John 10 Jesus shared with his disciples a parable, explaining to them that He was a good shepherd. They didn't get it. So, he makes a comparison between a good shepherd and a thief and a robber, illustrating His goodness.

John 10:10-11 (KJV)

¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

¹¹ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Jesus said this, "I came to give each of you a rich and satisfying life. I came to give an abundant life to you. That is the reason I came into your life." When there is evil, when there is destruction, when there is pillaging, and thievery, and murder and destruction, that, my friend, isn't the work of God. That is the work of Satan." You got it? There may be some things we don't understand. But we need to know this and resist any thought otherwise. God is a good, good Father and there is no evil in Him.

So, let's just look at a few passages of scripture that demonstrates the goodness of God.

Declarations of God's goodness from the Psalms

Psalm 33:5 (NKJV)

⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Look around you. Look at your blessings. Look at creation. Look at the sky at night. Look at the deer and elk, the rivers and the streams. Everything created is for our enjoyment or for our good. God is good. The earth declares the goodness of God. It is full of the goodness of God.

Psalm 145:9 (NLT2)

⁹ The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.

Say all. Say everyone. God showers His love and compassion on everyone but not everyone is aware or receives it. Not everyone notices. The air we breathe, the beauty we behold, the ability to work, the homes we have, the forgiveness offered, on and on we could go. God is good to everyone. Your neighbor. People in Chile, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe – everywhere, everyone.

Psalm 100:5 (NKJV)

⁵ For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, And His truth *endures* to all generations.

Everlasting Mercy. – God giving us what we don't deserve; forgiveness, pardon, heaven, fellowship, adopting us into His family, the Holy Spirit living within those who receive Him. His mercy is for all who call upon Him for it. *ALL* The most wicked person you know, if they call upon Him for mercy, He will give it. He will forgive. Is that a good God or what? Everlasting- day in and day out, His mercies are new every day. Every morning you wake up His mercies just start over. He is so good.

His truth endures to all generations. – You may have heard in recent days that God's Word is archaic and no longer relevant. You may have heard that His Word is not applicable to this generation. Part of the goodness of God is that His word is dependable and He never changes. It never changes. We don't have to wonder if His words are true. This is what I've discovered, I experience the goodness of God when I believe His Word and put into practice.

Another passage where David extols the goodness of God.

Psalm 100:4-5 (NLT2)

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

God's goodness is demonstrated by His unconditional, unfailing love. Paul asks the question; what can separate us from His unfailing love? Well, if it is unfailing then

neither angels, principalities, powers, things present or things to come, neither height, not depth nor any other created thing. Basically, if it is unfailing then nothing can separate us from His love. It could then it wouldn't be unfailing love.

God is good because His unfailing love and His faithfulness is not only for this generation but for your children and your children's children and your children's, children's children for a thousand generations. God's unfailing love and His unfailing faithfulness will be there for them if they seek Him. God is so good.

David wrote, "Guys – gals, When you enter His presence, either in your prayer closet at your house or when you come to church, let your mind and heart be filled with gratitude to the Lord for His faithfulness, for His goodness, for His unfailing love. Not for you only but for your children and your grandchildren...."

Look at this passage. David said,

²⁵ I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread. **Psalm 37:25 (NASB)**

Listen, some times we read passages and they just go in one ear and out the other. David said, I was young once. I've been observant. I've been watching. Now I'm old and never have I seen those who follow righteousness, those seeking after God, forsaken by God nor have I seen their descendants begging for bread. God provides for them and their descendants. He provides work. He provides food and shelter. I take this as a promise from the Lord. If I trust Jesus and follow His ways then my children will be taken care of. Their children will be taken care of. My great grandchildren will be provided for. The goodness of God is visited upon your descendants.

Understand - God is good to everyone but

2. He is especially good to those who trust Him – trust His Word.

Psalm 34:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

Blessed - happy, is the person who trusts in the Lord. You will never see how good God is until you trust Him. You will never understand His compassion, His goodness, his favor upon you until you trust Him. You will never know inner peace, joy or commitment until you trust Him. Blessed is the man, woman, boy or girl who puts their trust in Him.

SONG: "The Lord is good. The Lord is good. Taste and see that the Lord, He is good. Taste and see that the Lord, He is good.

Who do you trust? Are there certain people in your life whom you have total faith in? You know when they tell you something you don't have to wonder if they are going to fulfill their obligations or not. You know that when they give you their word, they will fulfill it even if it costs them. They are dependable and trustworthy. They would rather cut out their tongue than lie to you. They are honor bound. Maybe you have never met anyone like that. That is the person God is.

Luke 21:33 (NKJV)

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Matthew 5:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

What does that mean? God is trustworthy. He is always good. His word to you is always good. In His time, it will come to pass. God is a deliverer; what He promises He will fulfill.

Invitation:

Psalm 68:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God *who* is our salvation. Selah.

Look at this passage closely. The Lord daily bears our burdens. Are you burdened down today? Has this been a stressful week for you? Are there things in your life that's weighing you down? People? Pressures? Anxiety? Stress?

Jesus is the burden bearer. We can cast our care upon Him because He cares about us.

Psalm 55:22 (NKJV)

²² Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

STOP! He won't carry it unless we let it go.

He will sustain you. He will hold you. He will hold you up. He will keep you in His embrace.

He will not permit the righteous to be moved. He will carry you.

I'm sure you are familiar with the poem, Footprints in the sand. Listen:

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord
Scenes from my life flashed across the sky,
In each, I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints;
other times there was only one.

During the lowest times of my life
I could see only one set of footprints,
so I said, "Lord, you promised me,
that you would walk with me always.
Why, when I have needed you most would you leave me?"

The Lord replied, "My precious child,
I love you and would never leave you.
The times when you have seen only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."

God is good to us all.

Romans 8:32 (NLT2)

³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

Questions? Contact us!

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