

# GOODNESS

(Foundation Scriptures)

1. "But the fruit of the Spirit is goodness." (Galatians 5:22)
2. "I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them. (Romans 15:14)
3. "A good man out of the good treasurer of the heart brings forth good things." (Mathew 12:35)
4. "They shall behold your good works and glorify God in the day of visitation." (I Peter 2:12)
5. "For he (Barnabas) was a good man." (Acts 11:24)
6. "Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart." (Psalm 51:6)
7. "The integrity of the upright shall guide them." (Proverbs 11:6)
8. "Follow after (pursue) righteousness and godliness." (I Timothy 6:11)
9. "But just as he who called you is holy; so be holy in all you do." (I Peter 1:15)
10. "Keep yourself pure." (I Timothy 5:22)

## WHAT IS GOODNESS?

Goodness (AGATHOSUNE) means:

Virtuous	Pure
Sound	Good
Honest	Reliable
Upright	Trustworthy

## GOODNESS IS...

1. That quality of character that clothes a person with moral stability.
2. That character quality upon which the gifts of the spirit can be safely built.
3. That character trait that causes a person to be thoroughly honest in all walks of life.
4. The result of keeping your life pure and free from weeds that sap your strength, joy and effectiveness.
5. A determination like Daniel, to not defile myself with the king's meat in any way, shape or form.
6. Being transparent and honest before God, always examining your own life instead of weeding someone else's garden.
7. That fruit in your character that allows God to entrust you with great responsibilities.
8. The voluntary consecration of my heart and will to the revealed will of God.
9. Putting to death all works of the flesh that do not glorify God.

10. Choosing righteousness at whatever the cost.
11. The fruit of a crucified life, allowing the cross to put to death the tendencies and appetites of my selfish nature.
12. Cooperating with God as His fire purges deep into my heart, revealing the real me that nobody else knows about.

### **WHY IS GOODNESS SO IMPORTANT?**

“The wise Christian will be content and serve his generation in the will of God. If he should be overlooked in the religious popularity contests he will give it but small attention. He knows whom he is trying to please and he is willing to let the world think what it will of him. He will not be around much longer anyway, and where he is going, men will be known not by their Hooper rating but by the holiness of their character.”

(A.W. Tozer, Pg. 99, Man The Dwelling Place of God)

While many gauge God’s blessing upon a life by statistics, position and talents, God looks far beyond what we do to what we are. The fruit of the Spirit is not fame and popularity (too many have swallowed this philosophy in our generation). What I do does not determine what I am, but what I am does determine what I do. For this reason, I must continue to examine my motives for serving and my attitudes towards all people. How sad to think that so many who appeared to do great deeds upon earth, will one day hear, “Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!” (Matthew 7:23)

### **WHAT IS THE RESULT OF GOODNESS?**

1. We will have a clear conscience and be able to face people; anyone, anywhere at any time.
2. We will be in the place where God can speak to us, change us, lead us and use us for His glory.
3. We will walk open before God, desiring the Holy Spirit to tap the things in our lives that must go.
4. We will live above reproach and blameless before men, upholding the testimony of Jesus.
5. We will receive the life of Jesus and pass this on to those we meet along life’s journey.

### **REPUTATION VS. CHARACTER**

Reputation is what others perceive I am; character is what God perceives I am.

Reputation is what I am in public; character is what I am in secret.

Reputation may get you to the top; character alone can keep you there.

### **HOW IS GOODNESS DEVELOPED?**

Isaiah saw – The holiness of the Lord. (V. 1-3)

Isaiah said - “Woe is me.” (V.5)

Isaiah felt – A live coal touching his lips (V. 6,7)

Isaiah heard – The Lord calling him to service. (V. 8)

Isaiah did – He volunteered to go. (V. 8)

