

**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**  
GOODNESS

**Galatians 5:22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”.**

Good is the absence of defect or flaw, and the presence of complete wholesomeness. ‘*Agathosune*’ the Greek word translated “goodness” is a rare word that combines being good and doing good. It means kindness in actual manifestation, virtue equipped for action, a bountiful propensity both to will and do what is good, intrinsic goodness producing generosity, and a Godlike state or being.

**Who is Good?**

Jesus said only God is good. When someone referred to Him as “good teacher” Jesus responded by saying, “*Why do you call me good? No one is good - except God alone*” (Mark 10:17-18). The word “good” in the language of Scripture means “to be like God”, because He alone is the One who is perfectly good. We can have a high ethical standard but it is quite another thing for the Holy Spirit to produce the goodness that has its depths in the Godhead. This goodness goes far deeper. Goodness is love in action. It is righteousness demonstrated in everyday living by the Holy Spirit, and doing good out of a good heart, not for our own praise, but to please God. Jesus wants this kind of goodness to be a way of life for every Christian.

**Are We Born Good?**

The Bible teaches us clearly that we are born in sin, having inherited a disobedient nature from Adam. David said, “*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me*”. (Psalm 51:5). Therefore, we see that the tendency to do wrong, or sin, is within every human being. Paul the Apostle informs us that “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*”. (Romans 3:23). We are all naturally inclined toward sin, rebellion, disobedience, selfishness, exploitation and greed. You don’t have to teach a very young child to be ‘naughty’, it comes naturally, and parent’s have to correct their children continually.

When studying history, we see warfare has been the centerpiece of the world for more than 5,000 years. People of every nation, race, and creed have tried to rape, plunder, burn, blast and kill each other century after century. Plato said more than 2,350 years ago, “*Only dead men have seen an end to war*”. We see evil today being played out in the war in the Ukraine. The Russian soldiers repeating history again in 2022 killing civilians-men and women and children and destroying buildings and homes. How we need to pray against this evil, not seen in Europe since WW2.

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**What Can Make Us Good?**

Our good nature starts when we become spiritually born again. When we make the decision to accept Jesus as our Savior and repent of our sins, we become new creations in Jesus Christ - *"the old is gone the new has come!"* After conversion our basic nature changes and we can now have fellowship with God, who is holy, pure and righteous. We have been reconciled to God and become part of His family. (Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21). Before coming to Jesus Christ it was impossible to do enough to clear our past, but when we surrender our lives to Jesus and ask for His forgiveness, he completely forgives us of all our sins (Read 1 John 1:9).

After salvation we become created anew in the image of God, Christ dwells in us and the Holy Spirit becomes part of our lives (See Romans 8:9; Colossians 1:27). Because of this He will help us to do good. *"For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose"* (Philippians 2:13).

This is a progressive experience in our lives as we are being transformed into the image of Christ (Read 2 Corinthians 3:18). We grow in God's grace. (Read 2 Peter 3:18), We may fail many times, so we need to die to our sinful natures and walk in the Spirit daily, who will help us become mature Christians.

**How Can We Grow in Goodness?**

In the Old Testament David, a man after God's own heart, said: *How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.... I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you"* (Psalms 119:9-11). It is vitally important to read our Bibles and pray every day to keep that closeness to God and abide in the "Vine". D. L. Moody, a famous preacher, said, *"The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible"*.

Do those around see us as *"Good people"* thoroughly equipped for every good work. (See 2 Timothy 3:16). If they do, it is not for our self-esteem that should be up, but that they may glorify God in Heaven for the great work of Salvation in our lives. Read Matthew 5:13-16. The people around us do not read their Bibles, but they do read us. We need to be lights reflecting the love and goodness that Jesus came to bring into our lives when we became believers and made a commitment to follow our Savior. We are to be like salt bringing a cleansing and peace when there is turmoil around us. Jesus brought goodness and healing to the multitudes around Him. Let us share with others that Jesus is the answer to all our problems and needs. He is the light of the world".

Let us "Praise and Thank Jesus for His great love toward each one of us, and being part of His Eternal Kingdom, which overwhelms us with His Goodness".