



# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

## *A 5-Day Reflection Guide*

---

SERMON SERIES:  
**LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

WEEK & TOPIC:  
**WEEK 2 / GOODNESS**

DATES:  
**JULY 13-17, 2026**

**LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**  
**Week two – Goodness**  
**July 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**This Week's Big Idea:** Goodness is the visible evidence of God's character at work in us. Moses asked to see God's glory, and God revealed His goodness. God's goodness is not merely something we experience; it is something we are called to reflect. Because we trust that God is good, we can trust His process. And because His incorruptible seed lives in us, His goodness should become visible through us. Goodness enlarges people's view of God.

**DAY ONE:** Goodness Begins with God

**Today's Scripture**

**Psalm 119:68** *You are good and do only good; teach me Your decrees.*

**Galatians 5:22–23** *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives... goodness...*

**Today's Seed**

Have you ever noticed how casually we use the word **good**? "That was a good meal." "She's a good person." "That was a good movie." "I found a good parking spot." We use the same word to describe pizza, vacations, neighbors, and God. Yet surely they don't all mean the same thing.

When the Bible says, "**God is good**," it isn't complimenting Him. It's defining Him. Goodness isn't merely something God possesses. It's part of His very nature. Everything He does flows from who He is. This important because our culture constantly asks us to define good for ourselves. If something feels good...Do it. If it seems right...Trust it. If it makes you happy... It must be good. But scripture points us somewhere entirely different.

Paul lists Goodness as a fruit of the Spirit, because it begins with God's character, not my opinion. He doesn't tell us to try harder to become good people. He tells us that as we remain connected to Christ, the Holy Spirit begins reproducing God's own character within us.

Think about that. God isn't asking you to imitate goodness from a distance. He's inviting you to participate in His goodness from the inside out. That's a completely different way of living. Maybe you've said, "*I'm trying to be a better person.*" That's an admirable goal. But Christianity offers something even better.

Instead of simply trying to be good...The Holy Spirit begins making you more like the One who is good. That's why spiritual growth is more transformation than behavior modification.

The more time we spend with Jesus, the more His character begins to shape ours. People should eventually notice something different about us. Not because we're trying to impress them. But because we've been spending time with Him. Just as clothes can carry the smell of a campfire... Our lives should carry the fragrance of God's goodness.

**Beneath the Surface**

When Paul lists **goodness** as fruit of the Spirit, he chooses the Greek word **agathōsynē** (ἀγαθωσύνη). This is a rare word that wasn't common in everyday Greek conversation and only appears four times in the New Testament. To Jewish believers, **goodness** immediately brought to mind God's covenant character—His unwavering faithfulness, generosity, mercy, justice, and

moral perfection. This wasn't simply describing someone who was "nice." It described someone whose actions consistently reflected the character of God for the benefit of others.

Goodness isn't passive, it moves and serves, it forgives and, it confronts evil when necessary. That's why Jesus welcoming little children and Jesus cleansing the Temple were both acts of goodness. They looked very different, but each perfectly reflected the Father's heart.

**Don't miss this:** *Biblical goodness isn't simply being a good person. It's allowing God's character to become visible through your life.*

**Tend the Garden:** Take a few moments to reflect.

1. When you hear the word *good*, what is the first thing that comes to mind?
2. Have you ever based your definition of goodness more on culture than on God's character?
3. Who has demonstrated God's goodness to you in a way you'll never forget?
4. If someone spent one week observing your life, what would convince them you've been spending time with Jesus?

**Water the Seed:** Today, before responding to someone—whether at home, work, or church—pause and silently ask: "**Lord, what would Your goodness look like in this moment?**" Then respond from that place.

### **Grow This in Me**

Father,

Thank You that You are not only powerful, holy, and faithful, but that You are perfectly good. Thank You that Your goodness toward me has never depended on my performance, but has always flowed from Your unchanging character. Teach me to stop measuring goodness by my own opinions or the standards of this world. Instead, help me fix my eyes on Jesus, who perfectly reveals who You are. Holy Spirit, continue producing Your fruit within me. Let Your goodness become visible in my words, my choices, my generosity, my integrity, and the way I love people. May those around me catch the fragrance of Your presence because I've been walking closely with You.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen.

### **Week Two — Goodness**

**Day 1: Goodness begins with God, not me.**

**Day 2:** God's standard never moves.

**Day 3:** God's glory is revealed through His goodness.

**Day 4:** Goodness always moves toward others.

**Day 5:** God's goodness becomes visible through His people.

**Day Two — The Standard Never Moves.** How do we know what is truly good? What if our culture's definition isn't the same as God's?

**LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**  
**Week two – Goodness**  
**July 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**This Week's Big Idea:** Goodness is the visible evidence of God's character at work in us. Moses asked to see God's glory, and God revealed His goodness. God's goodness is not merely something we experience; it is something we are called to reflect. Because we trust that God is good, we can trust His process. And because His incorruptible seed lives in us, His goodness should become visible through us. Goodness enlarges people's view of God.

**DAY TWO:** The Standard Never Moves

**Today's Scripture**

**Mark 10:17–18** *"Why do you call Me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone."*

**Isaiah 55:8–9** *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord."*

**Today's Seed**

Imagine asking ten people to walk exactly **151 inches** without showing them where to stop. As you might guess, nobody would stop at the exact mark. Why? Because they were guessing. Now imagine someone standing right on the mark. You no longer have to guess. You simply walk toward the standard. Too often, we approach goodness, by comparing ourselves to other people. "I'm not as bad as them," "I try to be kind." "I'm a good person." But compared to whom?

Culture keeps moving the measuring tape. One generation celebrates what another condemned. One nation applauds what another rejects. If culture defines goodness, then goodness changes every few years. But God's character has never changed. That's why Jesus' response to the rich young ruler is so startling. The man approaches Him and says, "**Good Teacher...**" Jesus immediately replies, "**Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.**" Was Jesus denying that He was God? Not at all. He was forcing the young man to think about the true standard.

**Jesus wasn't lowering the standard, He revealed the standard.**

Goodness doesn't originate with people. It originates with God. The truth is, if I define goodness, I'll constantly wonder if I'm getting it right. If culture defines goodness, I'll always be chasing a moving target. But if God defines goodness, I have an unchanging standard rooted in His perfect character. That means God's goodness isn't influenced by opinion polls, cultural trends, or personal feelings. And, God doesn't become "less good" when life becomes difficult.

**Beneath the Surface:** When Jesus said, "**No one is good except God alone,**" the Greek word is **agathos** (ἀγαθός), the root from which Paul later forms **agathōsynē**, the word translated *goodness* in Galatians 5. In the Greek-speaking world, **agathos** could describe something useful, honorable, or beneficial. But Jesus elevates the conversation beyond moral behavior. He points to God as the absolute source and definition of goodness. This was a radical claim.

The rich young ruler thought goodness could be measured by religious performance. He had kept commandments, lived an upright life, and sincerely wanted eternal life. Yet Jesus exposed

the deeper issue: true goodness isn't merely about external obedience—it's about the heart's complete alignment with God.

**Don't miss this:** *If God defines goodness, then goodness never changes—even when the culture does.*

**Tend the Garden:** Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. Where have you been tempted to measure your goodness by comparing yourself to others?
2. Is there an area where culture's definition of "good" has influenced your thinking more than Scripture?
3. Why do you think it's comforting to know that God's standard doesn't change?
4. How would your daily decisions change if you consciously asked, "*What reflects God's character?*" instead of, "*What feels right to me?*"

**Water the Seed:** Before making a decision today—big or small—pause and ask yourself one question: "**Does this reflect God's character, or simply my preference?**" Don't rush past the question. Let it shape your response.

### **Grow This in Me**

Father,

Thank You that Your character never changes. In a world where opinions shift and standards move, You remain perfectly good. Forgive me for the times I've measured myself against other people instead of looking to You. Teach me to love what You love and value what You value. Help me recognize where my thinking has been shaped more by culture than by Your Word. Holy Spirit, continue transforming my heart so that Your goodness becomes the standard by which I live. May my life point people not to my goodness, but to Yours.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

### **Week Two — Goodness**

**Day 1:** Goodness begins with God, not me.

**Day 2: God's standard never moves.**

**Day 3:** God's glory is revealed through His goodness.

**Day 4:** Goodness always moves toward others.

**Day 5:** God's goodness becomes visible through His people.

**Day Three — Show Me Your Glory.** Moses asked to see God's glory. God's answer wasn't what anyone expected. Instead of revealing more power, He revealed His goodness—and that changes everything.

**Keep Growing:** God produces the fruit. We create the conditions. Stay connected to the Vine. Stay planted. Trust the process. The fruit is coming.

## LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Week two – Goodness

July 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**This Week's Big Idea:** Goodness is the visible evidence of God's character at work in us. Moses asked to see God's glory, and God revealed His goodness. God's goodness is not merely something we experience; it is something we are called to reflect. Because we trust that God is good, we can trust His process. And because His incorruptible seed lives in us, His goodness should become visible through us. Goodness enlarges people's view of God.

**DAY THREE:** Show Me Your Glory

### Today's Scripture

**Exodus 33:18–19** *Then Moses said, "Now show me Your glory." And the Lord said, "I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you."*

### Today's Seed

How would you answer if someone asked you, *"What is God's glory?"*?

I think that most of us imagine something spectacular, thunder, lightning, fire, the brilliance of heaven? I wonder if Moses expected something like that as well?

If anyone had seen God's power, it was Moses. He had already witnessed the burning bush, he watched the Red Sea split in two. He was on Mount Sinai as the mountain shook beneath the presence of God. Yet after all those experiences, one desire still burned within him, **"Show me Your glory."**

I love this prayer. Moses wasn't satisfied living on yesterday's encounters. He wanted to know God more deeply. But what happened next is one of the most surprising moments in Scripture. God didn't answer Moses' request with more power. He answered it with His goodness. **"I will cause all My goodness to pass before you."** Moses asked for glory. God revealed goodness.

That wasn't an accident. God was teaching Moses—and us—that His glory is most clearly seen in His character. Yes, God is powerful, yes, He performs miracles, yes, He rules over creation. But if you really want to know who God is, don't begin with what He can do. Begin with who He is. He is good.

That truth changes everything. When life is confusing, God is still good. When prayers seem unanswered, God is still good. When the process feels longer than expected, God is still good.

This is why Week One and Week Two belong together. **Patience** taught us to trust God's **process**. **Goodness teaches us why we can trust the process**. Because the One leading us is perfectly good. You may not understand every step He's taking. But you can trust the heart of the One who is leading. The more clearly you see God's goodness, the easier it becomes to surrender to His timing.

**Beneath the Surface:** Moses prayed, **"Lord, show me Your glory."** The Hebrew word translated **glory** is **kābōd** (כבוד). It literally carries the idea of **weight, substance, or significance**. Moses wasn't asking for a spectacular display. He was asking to know the very essence of who God is. We would expect God's answer to be, *"I'll show you My power,"* but

instead God says, *"I will cause all My goodness to pass before you."* The Hebrew word for **goodness** is **tûb** (טוב), describing God's kindness, generosity, beauty, moral excellence, and covenant faithfulness. When God chose to reveal His glory, He revealed His character.

**Don't miss this:** The greatest evidence of God's glory isn't merely His power. It's His goodness.

### **Tend the Garden**

Reflect on these questions today.

1. When you think of God's glory, what usually comes to mind?
2. How does it change your view of God to know that He chose to reveal His goodness?
3. Is there an area of your life where you've questioned God's goodness because you didn't understand His timing?
4. How would trusting God's character change the way you face your current circumstances?

**Water the Seed:** Take five quiet minutes today, and simply pray Moses' prayer: **"Lord, show me Your glory."** Don't rush it, sit quietly before Him and ask Him to reveal His goodness in a fresh way. Be open because it may come through scripture, a conversation, or some simple reminder that He's been faithful all along.

### **Grow This in Me**

Father,

Like Moses, I want to know You more deeply. Thank You that when You reveal Yourself, You reveal Your goodness. Thank You that Your character never changes, even when my circumstances do. Help me stop measuring Your goodness by what I can see and begin trusting who You have revealed Yourself to be. When I don't understand Your timing, remind me that Your heart is always good. Open my eyes today to see Your goodness in fresh ways, and let that confidence shape the way I live and love others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

### **Week Two — Goodness**

- ✔ **Day 1:** Goodness begins with God, not me.
- ✔ **Day 2:** God's standard never moves.
- ✔ **Day 3: God's glory is revealed through His goodness.**
- ☐ **Day 4:** Goodness always moves toward others.
- ☐ **Day 5:** God's goodness becomes visible through His people.

**Day Four — Goodness in Motion:** Jesus welcomed little children. Jesus overturned tables in the Temple. Two completely different moments... yet both perfectly displayed the goodness of God. How can that be?

**Keep Growing:** God produces the fruit. We create the conditions. Stay connected to the Vine. Stay planted. Trust the process. The fruit is coming.

## LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Week two – Goodness

July 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**This Week's Big Idea:** Goodness is the visible evidence of God's character at work in us. Moses asked to see God's glory, and God revealed His goodness. God's goodness is not merely something we experience; it is something we are called to reflect. Because we trust that God is good, we can trust His process. And because His incorruptible seed lives in us, His goodness should become visible through us. Goodness enlarges people's view of God.

**DAY FOUR:** Goodness Always Moves

### Today's Scripture

**Galatians 6:10 (NIV)** *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

**James 2:17** *Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

### Today's Seed

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to mistake **avoiding bad** for **doing good**? "I didn't lose my temper today." "I didn't say anything hurtful." "I didn't do anything wrong." Those are good things. But they aren't necessarily the fruit of goodness. Imagine a firefighter who spends his entire shift saying, "*Well...I didn't start any fires today.*" That's expected, but his job isn't simply to avoid causing problems. His calling is to put out fires and rescue people.

Sometimes we approach our Christian lives the same way. "I didn't sin." "I didn't gossip." "I didn't cheat." "I didn't lie." Wonderful. But the fruit of goodness asks a different question: **"Who did I move toward today?"**

Think about Jesus. Sometimes His goodness looked incredibly gentle. He welcomed little children. He touched lepers. He fed hungry crowds. He forgave broken people. Other times His goodness looked surprisingly bold. He overturned tables in the Temple. He confronted hypocrisy. He defended the vulnerable. Those moments looked completely different, every one of them reflected the Father's heart.

Paul tells us, **"As we have opportunity, let us do good..."** Notice he doesn't say, "*Think about doing good.*" Or, "*Feel good toward people.*" He says, **Do good.** God's goodness moved toward us long before we ever moved toward Him.

**"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."** Thankfully God didn't wait until we deserved it. He initiated. That's what goodness does. It moves toward people. Maybe today your opportunity won't feel dramatic. It might be encouraging a coworker. Checking on a neighbor. Writing a note. Stopping for the person stranded on the side of the road. Those moments may seem ordinary. But in God's Kingdom, ordinary acts of goodness become extraordinary acts of worship.

### Beneath the Surface

Paul says, **"As we have opportunity..."** The Greek word for **opportunity** is **kairos** (καιρός). Unlike **chronos**, which refers to ordinary clock time, **kairos** describes a God-given moment—a timely opportunity filled with purpose. Paul is teaching us to look for or recognize the divine opportunities hidden inside ordinary days. It could be a conversation, a phone call, a chance meeting, or someone in need. These moments are often God's invitations to reveal His

character through us. And notice, Paul doesn't command believers simply to *be* good. He tells them to **do** good. **Biblical goodness always has movement.** It becomes visible through action.

**Don't miss this:** Goodness isn't measured by the evil you avoid. It's revealed by the love you pursue.

### **Tend the Garden**

Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart.

1. Have I confused avoiding sin with actively doing good?
2. Who has God placed in my path today that may need to experience His goodness?
3. When has someone else's simple act of kindness or generosity changed my day—or even my life?
4. What opportunity might I overlook today if I'm too busy thinking only about myself?

**Water the Seed:** Before your day ends, intentionally do one act of goodness for someone who cannot repay you, AND, don't announce it, don't post it, don't expect recognition. Simply let God's goodness move through you. Then tonight, thank God for allowing you to reflect His heart.

### **Grow This in Me**

Father,

Thank You for Your goodness that pursued me long before I ever thought about pursuing You. Thank You that You didn't merely avoid judging me—you actively moved toward me with grace, mercy, and love. Holy Spirit, produce that same goodness in me. Open my eyes to the opportunities You've already placed in front of me today. Give me the courage to act, the compassion to care, and the wisdom to know what love looks like in each situation. May my goodness never stop with good intentions. Help it become good actions that point people to Jesus.

In His name,

Amen.

### **Week Two — Goodness**

- ✔ **Day 1:** Goodness begins with God, not me.
- ✔ **Day 2:** God's standard never moves.
- ✔ **Day 3:** God's glory is revealed through His goodness.
- ✔ **Day 4: Goodness always moves toward others.**
- **Day 5:** God's goodness becomes visible through His people.

### **Day Five — They Will See Your Father**

Jesus said people would see our **good works** and glorify our Father in heaven. What if your goodness is one of the clearest pictures of God someone will ever see?

**Keep Growing:** God produces the fruit. We create the conditions. Stay connected to the Vine. Stay planted. Trust the process. The fruit is coming.

**LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**  
**Week two – Goodness**  
**July 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**This Week's Big Idea:** Goodness is the visible evidence of God's character at work in us. Moses asked to see God's glory, and God revealed His goodness. God's goodness is not merely something we experience; it is something we are called to reflect. Because we trust that God is good, we can trust His process. And because His incorruptible seed lives in us, His goodness should become visible through us. Goodness enlarges people's view of God.

**DAY FIVE:** They Will See Your Father

**Matthew 5:14–16** *"You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

**Exodus 33:16** *"What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"*

**Today's Seed**

Moses asked one of the greatest questions in all of Scripture. **"Lord...what will distinguish us?"** Think about everything he could have pointed to. The miracles. The manna. The cloud by day. The fire by night. The Law. The Promised Land. Instead, Moses said, **"If Your Presence does not go with us...don't send us."** Why? Because Moses understood something every generation must rediscover. God's people are distinguished by **God's presence**, not merely God's blessings.

Fast-forward to Jesus, standing on a hillside, and He tells His followers, **"You are the light of the world."** Notice He doesn't say, *"Someday you'll become the light."* He says, *"You are."* Then He explains what that light looks like. **"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."**

Isn't that remarkable? Moses asked, *"How will the world know we're Your people?"* Jesus answers, *"They'll know because they'll see My character reflected through your life."* That's what the fruit of goodness is all about. It's not earning God's love. It's displaying God's heart. People should encounter something different when they encounter us. Not because we're more talented, or religious. Not because we're better than others, but because we've spent time with Jesus.

Our lives should reflect the nature of God's presence. It should be seen in our integrity, generosity, our compassion. Our courage, and our willingness to move toward people. This is the nature of heaven, and when people experience those things, they don't simply think, *"What a nice person."* They begin to wonder, *"What kind of God creates people like that?"*

**Beneath the Surface**

When Jesus speaks of **good deeds**, the Greek phrase is **erga kala** (ἔργα καλά). While another Greek word often translated "good" is **agathos**, **kalos** carries the idea of something **beautiful, noble, attractive, or excellent**. Jesus isn't merely saying people will notice morally correct behavior. He's describing a kind of goodness that is so beautiful it draws attention beyond itself. The purpose of these good works is not admiration. It's worship. Notice the progression: People **see** your good works, Then they **glorify** your Father. The spotlight never stays on the believer. It moves to God.

This echoes Moses' prayer in Exodus 33. Israel wasn't meant to impress the nations with military strength or national success. They were meant to reveal the character of the God who walked among them. The mission hasn't changed.

**Don't miss this:** When God's goodness becomes visible in us, God's glory becomes visible through us.

### **Tend the Garden**

As you finish this week's journey, reflect on these questions.

1. If someone observed my life this week, what picture of God would they receive?
2. Is there an area where I need God's goodness to become more visible?
3. Who has reflected God's goodness to me in a way that changed my life?
4. As I prepare for next week's study, how has my understanding of God's goodness changed?

**Water the Seed:** Before this day ends, intentionally show God's goodness to one person. Not because they deserve it. Not because they'll thank you. Not because anyone else will notice. Do it because that's exactly what God did for you. Then quietly pray, "**Lord, let people see You more clearly because of the way I lived today.**"

### **Grow This in Me**

Father,

Thank You for revealing Your goodness to me through Jesus Christ. Thank You for loving me before I ever deserved it and pursuing me when I was far from You. Holy Spirit, continue reproducing Your character within me. Let my life become a window through which people see the goodness of God. Make me generous when it costs me something, compassionate when it's inconvenient, courageous when it's unpopular, and faithful when no one is watching. May everything I do point beyond myself to the beauty of Christ. Let people see my good works, and glorify my Father in heaven.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

### **You've Completed Week Two — Goodness!**

This week you've discovered that goodness begins with God, not with us. You've seen that His character—not culture—defines what is truly good. You've stood with Moses as God revealed His glory through His goodness, and you've been challenged to let that same goodness become visible through your own life. As you continue this journey, remember: the Holy Spirit isn't simply making you a nicer person. He's reproducing the very character of God within you. And when that happens, the world gets a clearer picture of Jesus.

### **Next Sunday LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE – JOY!**

**Next Week's Big Idea:** Joy is the settled confidence that God is with me, God is for me, and God is working in me—regardless of what is happening around me. Happiness depends on happenings; joy flows from His presence. The Holy Spirit produces a joy that circumstances cannot steal because it is rooted in salvation, sustained by God's presence, and strengthened by His promises. Joy reminds the world that what Christ has done in us is greater than what life does to us. Join us next Sunday as we continue our journey through the Fruit of the Spirit.

**Keep Growing:** God produces the fruit. We create the conditions. Stay connected to the Vine. Stay planted. Trust the process. The fruit is coming.