

Day 8

Goodness

Silence (2 minutes) Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

Scripture *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* Romans 12:21

Discussion Goodness, according to the passage above, is the opposite of evil. How do we fight evil? What does overcoming evil with good look like lived out? It means “turning the other cheek” when someone hurts you. It means returning love to someone who offends you. We don’t retaliate or take revenge or stoop to their level. Proverbs 26:4 says, *“Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him.”* In other words, if someone is acting like an idiot, don’t be like that guy! We will make a much greater impact for the benefit of others (and for our own benefit) if we are willing to exercise self control and return good for evil. When we do what is “good,” everybody wins.

When people hurt or offend us or ignorantly cause us grief, our natural tendency (our “flesh”) is to get angry and respond in kind. Jesus demonstrated for us to do what is unnatural; in fact, we could even call it supernatural. When we abide in the Spirit, God gives us strength to love people who have done us wrong. It says in Proverbs 25:21-22, *“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.”* Experiencing God’s unconditional love will cause them to realize their shameful deeds. Bless your enemies and you will overcome evil with good!

Application The word “goodness” is often used in our culture without consideration for the real meaning of the word. Goodness is whatever is pleasing to God. How can you do a better job of pleasing God by doing good and overcoming the evil around you? Who can you show kindness or forgiveness to that doesn’t deserve it? It may be a relationship that has plagued you for years, or it could be someone that you see in traffic today, but choose to do one act of goodness to someone who has demonstrated evil towards you sometime in the next 24 hours.

Prayer Heavenly Father, You are good and everything that is good comes from You. Help me to understand Your heart so that I can do whatever it is that You desire. Give me wisdom to carry out Your goodness in my behavior in the midst of evil in this world. May the light of Your love through my life help others to see how dark evil is and how wonderful You are! Thank You for giving us an example of goodness in Jesus. Lead me to people who need to see it lived in action. Amen!

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture memory for the week: *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*
Colossians 3:12

