

God's Overflowing Goodness!

"Overflow" Series- Part 01

Share/Connect time: *If your life was a book, what would be the title? How would your life (book) be categorized from the following choices: Comic book...Pulp Fiction...Novel...Western...or Travelogue? Why?*

An illustration for our life -

The Old Testament opens with the theme of "goodness" or "what is good". God spent several days creating...and then pronouncing His creations as "good". Eventually, God would define one thing as **not** being good...that man should be alone. God, out of His goodness, makes the situation "good" with His creation of a woman, Eve. Now in Genesis 3, the fall of man and his banishment from the garden (all that was good) begins with a discussion about the correctness of God's "goodness":

But the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity. And when the woman saw that the tree was good (suitable, pleasant) for food and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she gave some also to her husband, and he ate. -Genesis 3:4-6

-Was God's prohibition of that one fruit, a "good" thing? Why or why not?

-How did the serpent call into question the goodness of God?

-How did Eve come to believe that God's goodness could be doubted or questioned?

-A most important question for us today: Why do you, sometimes, doubt God's goodness in your life?

Book: Psalms 100:1-5 (Amplified Bible)

Psa 100:1 A Psalm of thanksgiving and for the thank offering. MAKE A joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

Psa 100:2 Serve the Lord with gladness! Come before His presence with singing!

Psa 100:3 Know (perceive, recognize, and understand with approval) that the Lord is God! It is He Who has made us, not we ourselves [and we are His! We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. [Eph 2:10]

Psa 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and a thank offering and into His courts with praise! Be thankful and say so to Him, bless and affectionately praise His name!

Psa 100:5 For the Lord is good; His mercy and loving-kindness are everlasting, His faithfulness and truth endure to all generations.

Let's get into the Word:

As we study this brief Palms, please note that there are seven commands: Shout joyfully (v. 1); Serve (v. 2a); Come before Him (v. 2b); Know (v. 3); Enter (v. 4a); Give thanks (v. 4b); and, Bless (v. 4c). Then verse 5 gives the reason behind the commands. Let's begin with the reason, first!

How does the Psalmist define the “goodness” of God in verse 5?

What would you add to the definition that proves God’s goodness?

Imagine that a person has come to you who has experienced many difficult trials and doubts that God is truly good. How would you counsel him?

Now due to our experiencing the goodness of God, there is a natural outpouring of action in our lives. Discuss each action with the following questions:

The Action	Example of the Action	Obstacles to Action	How to Improve Probability of Doing
Shout joyfully			
Serve			
Come before Him			
Know			
Enter			
Give thanks			
Bless			

A challenge to consider:

Which of the above actions is God calling a priority in your life at the moment?

What action(s) will you take to be obedient to God’s prompting?

Is there someone you can share this action steps with and who can hold you accountable?