

## Goodness

***“For this very reason, make your every effort to add to your faith goodness.”  
(2 Peter 1:5a)***

**Faith** is what we believe and we commit to live in life; from faith our way of living is determined.

People have faith in various beliefs but the truth is found only in Him who said, ***“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)*** The truth of eternal life and the way to reach God the Father and to live with Him forever in Heaven is found only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. ***“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*** Our salvation is not acquired by good work. It is a gift of God. Salvation is not by any work or effort of man. It is a grace from God to be received through faith in Christ Jesus. Our faith, our belief and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross and raised from the dead on the third day grants us salvation. From this point we build our life according to God’s ways to be planted in the truth through faith in the Lord Jesus.

In our faith, we add goodness: ***“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)*** After we received Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord, we are changed and being renewed day by day. We have turned from the wicked ways of the world and have started to use our body parts, our strength, our time, money and other resources to do good works. We received salvation and the full blessing of being a child of God. We also have inheritance in heaven. But do our lives show that we live in God’s blessings? Do we share that blessing to others? Do we exist as a blessing to other people? Is our presence as a blessing to our family, to our neighbors, to the society, to the city and to the nation we belong?

**Goodness** is a character of God; it is the character of Jesus Christ; the word of God tells us that Jesus was moving from one place to another doing good works. We are the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ and God wants to add to our faith goodness.

Let us read some of the passages in the Bible that shows goodness:

***“In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down in Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers they stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver***

***coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’” (Luke 10:30-35)***

***“The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.” (Luke 3:11)***

***“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” He told them. “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.” (Luke 3:13,14b)***

***“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” (Romans 12:13)***  
***“Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” (Hebrews 13:1-3)***

***“If you see your brother’s ox or sheep straying, do not ignore it but be sure to take it back to him. If the brother does not live near or if you do not know who he is, take it home with you and keep it until comes looking for it. Then give it back to him. Do the same if you find your brother’s donkey or his cloak or anything he loses. Do not ignore it.” (Deuteronomy 22:1-3)***

***“Do to take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother or an alien living in one of your towns. Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and is counting on it. Otherwise he may cry to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty of sin.” (Deuteronomy 24:14-15)***

***“When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the works of your hands when you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.” (Deuteronomy 24:19-22)***

**My dear and beloved:** What we have read are just a few examples of what the Word of God tells us to do to be good and how we can add to our faith in Jesus Christ goodness. Let us practice what the Word of Truth says, and in the same manner let us agree to pray from our hearts:

**My Prayer:** *“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Thank you, Lord, for your words that lead me in the way of righteousness, goodness, and peace. Lord, I entrust my life into your hand. I want to be a blessing to my family, my friend, my brothers and sisters in faith, and to all the people living around me. Thank you, Lord, for your love and goodness. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”*