

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: GOODNESS

GOODNESS: “Kindness of heart or act, GOODNESS expresses itself in good deeds; generosity, does good to others, goes beyond the boundaries of natural GOODNESS, agreeable, noble, honorable, merciful. Also - GOODNESS expresses itself in sterner qualities that may not be gentle, but hurting. Nevertheless, it has a cleaning effect. For example: Jesus cleansed the temple of thieves and robbers and denounced the Scribes and Pharisees for their hypocritical acts.” (World - wide / Keswick)

GOODNESS appears to be the one fruit that seems more exclusively an attribute of God”. Romans 2:4 tells us that “...the GOODNESS of God leadeth thee to repentance.” In the case of the prophet Daniel’s case, his GOODNESS led him to the lion’s den. However, he remained faithful in his trial. He exhibited a maturity in character, a devotion to duty. He had a good reputation among his enemies and his friends and God kept him safe.

GOODNESS is an outgoing spirit, a do-gooder. The world would be a better place if there were more godly do-gooders.

How to cultivate the fruit of GOODNESS:

1. Be filled with the knowledge of God and His word.
2. Stand against evil so that GOODNESS can emerge.
3. Seek opportunity to assist those in need.
4. Study the life of Christ. His deeds were the direct result of God’s GOODNESS in Him.

GOODNESS will also require you to admonish (correct) your brothers and sisters for their good. By the use of positive criticism, given in love, you can help each other root out, pull down and destroy negative habits / attitude / actions / behaviors that interfere with spiritual growth. And, by the use of GOODNESS, they can be helped to build up and plant positive Christians values.

Look for persons who:

- Are merciful and kind
- Are generous and love to share
- Are understanding and willing to help
- Are firm, yet gentle in their criticism
- Help the needy with a right motive
- Are willing to go the second mile cheerfully
- Are unselfish and agreeable

### WARNING

Be aware of the enemy of GOODNESS: Evil. Also, be aware of the artificial fruit of hypocrisy that likes to parade itself as GOODNESS, but in reality is evil in disguise. It appears as GOODNESS, but the motives are evil.