



Grounded

October 2022

Grounded In the Goodness of God

*"All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able,
I will sing of the goodness of God."*

As I look back on my story with Jesus, I'm often reminded of pivotal people in my life who have, through the teaching of the word, imprinted rich Biblical truths on my heart. In the fourth grade I had a very special Sunday school teacher who was well-respected in our church, but honestly, I was slightly intimidated by him. Entering his classroom after summer break, I found a seat near the front of the class. Dr. Harkema came in with no real greeting or introduction and said "Children, we are all doomed. We deserve the penalty of death and eternal hell." Pause. I sat frozen in my seat. I didn't look around to see my peers' faces. I just looked at him. "Doomed? Death and hell?" Then he spoke again and asked "Have any of you ever lied? Disobeyed your parents? Held anger and hate in your heart?" I did a quick inventory and realized I was guilty of all of the above. He then said "Well then, it's death and hell for you!"

I think I may have actually gasped because he then looked at me and said "Heidi, on your own merit and goodness you simply aren't good enough. Let me tell you about the One who is."

He spoke of a good God who, by His grace, love and mercy, sent Jesus to cover my condemnation—I my earned and very deserved condemnation.

In that classroom that day, I asked Jesus to cover me; to enter my life with His goodness. I remember thinking, "If God never saw fit to bless me with any other goodness in my life, the gift he had already given in Jesus was enough for me to be convinced of His goodness."

Fast forward. 2022 has been riddled with heartache and loss. We suffered deep betrayal by some of our dearest friends and were then rejected by many because of this betrayal. We lost our home and everything in it to fire. My parents suffered sickness and hospital stays. Our precious foster grandson was reunited with his bio parents after 3 years in our care and no expectation of losing him. Recently we dropped off our youngest daughter at college and became empty-nesters without a nest.

But intermingled with all this loss we saw God move mightily. Two of our foster grandchildren were adopted into our family and a miracle granddaughter was born after years of infertility. We saw kindness and generosity beyond comprehension after our house fire: people opening their hearts and resources to help keep us on solid ground; a beautiful

home offered to us for as long as we need, smack dab in the middle of the woods, perfectly central to work and school. We have seen God's goodness all around us. Our salvation is secure.

The Lord is my salvation. When we equate God's goodness to ease and comfort, we lose this beautiful opportunity to know Christ in his suffering, to cling to Him for dear life because he is the only sure and good thing; to rest in the nearness of God; to open our hands and say, "It's all Yours, God;" to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the greatest thing we have in all of life is Jesus Christ. The laying down of His life for me is the only proof I need of His goodness. When life doesn't feel good, God still IS good. When life leaves us with more questions than answers, we cling to our covenant keeper.

*"Jesus has overcome
and the grave is overwhelmed.
The victory is won.
He has risen from the dead
And I will rise
when he calls my name.
No more sorrow no more pain.
I will rise on eagles wings,
before my God,
fall on my knees and rise"
(Chris Tomlin)*

~ Heidi Lucas

Hey, Sister!

We're in the midst of a year-long venture of praying scripture together and grounding ourselves in the truth of God's Word. As we do so, be encouraged knowing that a woman of our prayer team is praying specifically for you! And we encourage you to join us and pray these same scriptures over your loved ones. When we pray scripture, we know we're in keeping with the will of God!

If you're interested in being part of our prayer team, praying for a small group of women each month from your home, please contact Nikki MacDonald at nikki.m@e-free-family.com

WE GO
TOGETHER



Personalize & Pray These Scriptures

Psalm 31:19

Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

Psalm 119:68

You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

Psalm 145:9

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Titus 3:3-5

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

Mamas of preschoolers, join us for MOPS and find community and encouragement as you love your families. Our heart and desire is that you will meet with Jesus and grow in relationship with Him and one another. Join us October 4 and 18 at 9:30am in North Fellowship Hall. Child-care is provided.

Oh, taste and see
that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes
refuge in him!

Psalm 34:8

A Prayer & Heart Response for October

Oh, God, You are good and I am not. I needed a Savior, One to pay the penalty for my sin. And in Your goodness, You sent Jesus to rescue me. Thank You, Father. Sometimes the pain and difficulty of life cloud my vision and I don't readily see Your goodness and faithfulness. But Father, no matter what I'm going through, I want to counsel my heart with what is true: You are good. Your goodness is before me, beside me, behind me, chasing me down and pursuing me everyday of my life. Help me to see and know and believe and declare it: You are good and Your steadfast love endures forever.

"God is good.
Whether or not you feel that
He is good, whether or not His
choices seem good to you,
whether or not it seems true
in your life---He is still good."

~ Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Women's Prayer

Women are invited to come together in prayer every other Wednesday morning at 9:30am beginning October 12 in North Fellowship Hall.

Women's Ministries

"Women's Ministries seeks to support the church's mission and vision to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ. Committed to God's Word as our authority, we're passionate about creating a culture in which Titus 2 relationships (older teaching younger) can thrive by providing opportunities, resources, and support for women to connect with one another and the Lord Jesus Christ."