52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Give Thanks to the LORD, for He is Good!**

Day 22, June 4, 2013

Please read this week’s passage from **Psalm 119: 29-72**.

Our memory verse for this week is **Psalm 119:58**.

“I sought Your favor with all my heart; Be gracious to me according to Your word.”

The word **favor** means **kind regard**. We are asking the Lord to look at us with kindness, because we are striving to love Him with all of our heart.

The word **gracious** means friendly; **to do good**; to express kindness and favor; to be merciful; disposed to forgive offenses and impart unmerited blessings. We are asking the Lord to remember His promises written in His Word for those who keep His commandments with all of their heart.

The word **good** is used 5 times in our verses for this week. Remember when the Lord repeats things, He is trying to get our attention. As we begin our 4th week of building a second wall with the Wisdom of God’s Word around our families, friends, communities, and nations; let’s stop and reflect on **how good our God is**!

The Hebrew word for **good** used in these scriptures is ***tob*** - to be pleasing or good; pleasant, agreeable, beautiful, beneficial, delightful, favorable, generous, pure & right, splendid. It is from ***tub*** - good things, best things. One verse uses the word ***yatab*** - to be good, well, glad, or pleasing.

Webster’s dictionary has over 50 definitions for **good**. Let’s look at a few of them.

* not weak or defective; having strength adequate to its support
* Complete or sufficiently perfect in its kind
* Conformable to the moral law; virtue applied to actions.
* Well adapted to the end
* Convenient; useful; expedient; conducive to happiness.
* Sound; perfect; uncorrupted; undamaged.
* Suited to strengthen or assist
* Pleasant to the senses
* Useful; valuable; having qualities or a tendency to produce a good effect.
* Kind; affectionate; faithful
* Promotes happiness; pleasant; agreeable; cheering; gratifying.
* Honorable; fair; unblemished; a man of good fame or report.
* Genuine
* Benevolent; merciful; gracious.

Most of the verses speak of the good we will receive when we keep God’s Word.

**Psalm 119:66 “**Teach me **good** discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments.”

**Psalm 119:71** “It is **good** for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.”

The word **teach** used in verse 66 is ***lamad***, means to teach by goading with a rod. And verse 71 talks about the good we get from affliction. We think that good means everything is easy and delightful, but the process to getting there is not. Our flesh seeks its selfish good, not the good of our Heavenly Father. He has to use whatever means are necessary to get us on the right path to intimacy with Him. Our flesh is stubborn and rebellious; it hates the ways of God. **So God, in His kindness and mercy, leads us through times of rebuke and trials – all for our good.**

**Psalm 119:72** “The law of Your mouth is **better** to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces*.*” This scripture uses the same Hebrew *word* ***tub****.*

**The word of God does us more good than money** because in it we learn to draw closer to Him, and there we will find true joy.

The other time **good** is used in this section of Psalm 119 refers to **how good God is!**

**Psalm 119:68** “You are **good** and **do good**; Teach me Your statutes.”

**King David loved to tell God how good He is.** He has a favorite phrase he uses in worship over and over again. **“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”** He wrote this praise 43 times in the Word of God, and then Solomon, Ezra, and Jeremiah used it also. David went through many trials, testings, and teachings in his life; and in them he learned that God is always good, and that His lovingkindness is everlasting. He worshiped God with this phrase all throughout his life.

**Please read Psalm 118 and Psalm 136.** These psalms extoll the goodness of God over and over again. Don’t just read them, but make them a prayer and worship to the Lord! He takes great pleasure when we pray and sing His Word back to Him.

**2 Chronicles 5:13** “in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the LORD saying, "He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting," **then the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud**,”

When the temple was built, King Solomon assembled the leaders and the priests and they watched the Levites carry the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple. Then the priests carried it into the Holy of Holies. When the priests came out of the Holy of Holies, all of the singers and musicians began praising the Lord saying, "He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting." Instantly, the temple was filled with the Shekinah glory of the presence of God. **God is very pleased when we praise Him as good!**

When we are in a trial or a testing, we do not always feel that God is good. But rejoice, **God never changes, and He is always good** and He is always working things together for our good if we obey His word.

**Romans 8:28** “ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Please read Jeremiah 32 and 33**.

God’s people were going into captivity because they had not loved the Lord with all their hearts and they had not kept His commandments. But out of His lovingkindness, God promised good will come back to His people.

**Jeremiah 33:11** “the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, ‘**Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, For the LORD is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting’;** and of those who bring a thank offering into the house of the LORD. For **I will restore** the fortunes of the land as they were at first, says the LORD.”

**Let the promises of good for God’s people go deep into your soul** (your mind, will, and emotions), so that when you are tried, you will be able to stand firm on the goodness of God.

**“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”**