

## Is God's Goodness For Real?

James 1:17-18

**Introduction:** When bad things happen, like a pandemic, many people instinctively wonder if God had anything to do with it. When good things happen, they quickly forget God and take credit.

**At the foundation of staying real in life is our understanding of God.**

**James 1:16-18 gives us three powerfully positive declarations about the character of God.**

1. **God is Good vs. 16-17** *"Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights."*
2. **God is ALWAYS Good vs. 17** *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."*
3. **God proved his goodness through giving sinners the new birth vs. 18** *"He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all He created."*

**Three wonderful evidences of God's goodness in redemption.**

1. **God's motivation was His sovereign grace.** "He CHOSE TO GIVE us birth."
2. **God's method was "through the WORD OF TRUTH."**
3. **God's ultimate plan was to make us "first-fruits of all He created."**

**The greatest gift God ever gave to sinful men is the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ His Son.**

**Conclusion: Four ways to acknowledge God's goodness.**

1. **Look to God if you desire to live the best possible life.** **Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
2. **Thank God every day for His blessings.** **1 Thess. 5:18** *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
3. **In times of testing, remember that your troubles are only temporary and light compared to what God has planned for you.** **2 Corinthians 4:17** *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.*
4. **To experience God's greatest goodness, receive God's greatest gift, salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.** **2 Cor. 9:15** *Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*