

Crowned With Goodness

Crowns. They glitter with gold and gems. They're worn by important people; kings, queens, rulers. But did you know believers in Christ are also important people? The Bible says they will be awarded crowns in heaven. But what about the here and the now? Psalm 65:9-11 speaks of the crown of God's goodness. "You [God] visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it. You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth. You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance." Just think: You're so important to God He will crown your year with goodness. Meaning, He wants to shower your personal life, your marriage and family, your business or job, your fields and orchards, your church and community, with all kinds of good things. You ask: 'He'll do all that for Me?' Oh Yes, and more! Jesus said: "I have come that they [you] may have life, and that they [you] may have it more abundantly." [John 10:10 nkj] Don't miss God's paths dripping with abundance. Keep in touch with Him and receive all He has for you.

Ecstatic the Ark of the Covenant had arrived in his city, King David said: "Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people. Sing unto Him....let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD." Then he burst forth: "O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever." [1 Chronicles 16:8-10, 34 kjv] James wrote: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning" [James 1:17] God is our good, impartial, unchanging Heavenly Father, the Giver of all good things.

Good things are the outflow of God's goodness, which is part of His nature, an attribute of His character. The Palmist wrote: "Thou art good and doest good." [Psalm 119:68 kjv] Richard L. Strauss says: "He is everything that God should be—the ideal person, the sum total of all perfection. There are no defects or contradictions in Him, and nothing can be added to His nature to make Him any better. He is excellence to an infinite degree, possessing every desirable quality, and therefore of inestimable value." David linked God's goodness with mercy and love. "Remember, O LORD, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to Your love remember me, for You are good, O LORD. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in His ways." [Psalm 25:6-8 niv] Psalm 33:5 says: "...the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD." The prophet Nahum said: "The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble...." [1:7 nkj] Apart from God's love, mercy and grace you could never experience His goodness, provision, or protection. And, He always does and gives what is just right for you.

Therefore, out of God's limitless resources, all good things, spiritual and material, flow your way. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." [Ephesians 1:3 nkj] "Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things....." [Psalm 103:3-5 nkj] The fact God wills to forgive, heal, redeem, provide, and satisfy you with good things, should be proof enough He is good. But check it out for yourself: "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." [Psalm 34:8]

Long ago Solomon wrote: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths..." [Proverbs 3:5-7 nkj] What can be learned from Solomon's exhortation? It is this: Acknowledge God as God; putting your faith and trust in Him activates His power to release His goodness into your life, and, He'll also show you the right way to go in life. Summing it up, what can you do to receive all that's available from Him? Keep recounting past blessings; keep confronting your fears; keep in sync with God's will; keep praying; keep believing; keep trusting; keep expecting; keep looking to Him; keep praising Him. He'll give you what He knows is good—just for you. Then of course always thank Him for what He does or sends your way. Because God is good He takes great delight in 'Crowning Your Year' with His goodness.

George Shaw