

What is Good & Evil?

(Scripture with Good questions?)

The following are question that have helped me better understand God and God's good. They have helped me bring in deeper what it's like to be in God's good and the good benefits that come from it.

God has always been confusing to me. Sometimes it seems that God's spiritual good goes against my training, but really, my training goes against my practicing God's good. I'm not naturally a giving, patient, humble, or loving person. It takes concentrated effort to respond with such grace. I need to set aside conflicting thought messages.

Regardless of the conflict or struggle at play, the truth remains that God's good exists and I need to know it. I CAN know it better IF I take action to know it better.

This material is designed to think deeper about Biblical messages describing God's good. Since we all sin, we all can benefit from correction. Who wouldn't want to be more adjusted with God's good? Each one of us, because the sin within us, can experience a desire to avoid God's good. God's good will be in opposition with evil that inwardly exists within us. Who doesn't have pride, bitterness, envy, self-seeking, deception, or lust within them? We all fall short and can benefit from corrective action.

In order to walk with God better we can visualize each step ensuring we take that step more with truth, love, and peace. Our minds can gradually improve with such things if we take action to situate our thoughts there. If we can get our thoughts there we can act better with grace, one step at a time.

Through such grace filled action, I experienced how truth, love, forgiveness, service, perseverance, endurance, faith, and many other things are good. Humbling myself is always part of the journey. I experienced contentment, freedom, and joy. I acquired faith through testing Gods ways and witnessing good results. I learned spiritual good exists, but I needed to live with it and practice it in order to experience it. As a result my faith has increased more and more.

Yet I still had so much to learn. Self-seeking, bitterness, and other forms of sin still plagued me. I chose to focus more on the Bible's instructions and less upon the teachings of people. After all, I had a Master's degree in Education. I know how to learn. I know about 'Group Think,' 'Cognitive Bias,' and 'Herd Mentality.' I needed to see what the Bible said for myself.

Here is what I did:

First, I discovered the most central idea of the Bible was one simple instruction. We are to love God with all our inward ability. Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27

Next, I wanted to know precisely what the Bible said about this command. I applied my microscope to dissect each word carefully within this command to better understand its meaning. It used the word heart. I decided the best way to know what the Bible meant about the word heart was to study every verse in the Bible using the word heart. So I studied over 800 verses and paid close attention to repetition. I learned so much doing this I decided to continue this study method with more words. I've done this study many words over the past decade.

Alongside with this concordance style study I would define the words in Hebrew or Greek to better know the meaning.

Finally, perhaps the most challenging aspect of this learning, I had to test the information through action. I had to bring it to life in the real world. I chose to examine myself, confess, repent, make restitution, humble myself, forgive, have mercy, and much more. By far, taking action has been both the hardest and most rewarding part of learning. The more challenging it is, the more I tend to learn and grow.

Here is the truth - We CAN have a BETTER LIFE if we CHOOSE to give ourselves over more and more to God's grace. God's grace is God's good. Let's learn it together with the mindset that we will choose to grow in it.

A number of years ago I did a study with a friend going through Romans 12:9-21. I believed it was important because my NKJV had it entitled "Behave like a Christian." Verse 9 said, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good." I asked my friend, "What is good and evil?"

Neither of us were confident in how to answer this question. It's a simple basic question. What is good and evil? The verse says to "Cling to what is good." So I asked, "How can anyone possibly "Cling to what is good" if they cannot even define what it is?

I performed a comprehensive Biblical concordance study on the word good and then again with the word evil. Here is a brief summary of the results.

Evil is: Deceit, false lips, flattery, envy, covet, vanity, pride, arrogance, bitterness, wrath, anger, rebellion, malice, hypocrisy, ungodliness, clamor, debt, love of money, oppressing, being alone,

Malice - desiring ill will, misfortune, of others

Clamor - making lots of noise to agitate

Hypocrisy - playacting, insincere, fake

Good is: Peace, truth, love, no partiality, charitable deeds, lending, forgiveness, mercy, faith, heading the word, repentance, zeal, perseverance, seeking good, knowing good, abhor evil, caring for enemies, not to burden, labor

Abhor - hate

We are to seek, think, speak, desire, and do good. This is the goal and always has been God's goal for people. The problem is evil, that we seek, think, speak, desire, and do it.

The rest of this material involves Bible verses on good or evil and questions. I hope you find this to be a thought provoking study that challenges you in a way where you find new answers to grow a deeper and clearer understanding about God's good.

We can know God's good more and more, one study at a time. Each learning will build upon the other. The learning can grow much more if we test or practice the instructions.

This material will be broken up into sections where there are patterns describing God's good. This first section describes how God is good. Within each section is an question to prompt further thinking. Please feel free to ask your own questions and find answers. The point is to increase our learning to align more closely with what the Bible says. Hopefully, you can experience some shock and awe as I have. You may be surprised by some of what you read in the Bible because it differs with previous learnings. This is not only okay, it is good learning.

God is good

Matthew 19:16-17 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “**Good** Teacher, what **good** thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me **good**? No one *is good* but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

Mark 10:18 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me **good**? No one *is good* but One, *that is*, God.

Luke 18:19 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me **good**? No one *is good* but One, *that is*, God.

Questions - Jesus said, “No one *is good* but One, *that is*, God.” Are we ready to grow our understanding more and more with God's good? Why might Jesus say that only God is good?

Seeking Good

Proverbs 11:27 He who earnestly seeks **good** finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks *evil*.

Questions - What is good? What is evil? How can we seek good?

Luke 11:34 The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is **good**, your whole body also is full of light. But when *your eye* is bad, your body also *is* full of darkness.

Questions - What makes an eye good or bad? How might an eye affect our body or mind? Do you think this has to do with perception?

1 Peter 3:13 And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is **good**?

Questions - How can we become followers of what is good? How might that change how we think, talk, or act?

2 Chronicles 19:3 Nevertheless **good** things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God.”

Questions - How can we prepare our hearts to seek God? Why might our hearts need preparation?

Colossians 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every **good** work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Questions - How are we increasing in the knowledge of God? What activity increases knowledge better; reading or doing?

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is **good**.

Questions - What are we testing? Do we test our understanding? How might we hold fast to what is good?

Proverbs 25:27 *It is* not **good** to eat much honey; So to seek one’s own glory *is not* glory.

Question - What is seeking one’s own glory? Why might that not be good?

Amos 5:14 Seek good and not evil, That you may live; So the Lord God of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken.

Questions - How might seeking good and not evil help us to live? How might it impact “the Lord God of hosts” being with us?

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Questions - How might we “take up the whole armor of God?” What armor have we been taking up? What is that like? How does it impact our life?

Iniquity is evil

Psalm 94:20 Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, Have fellowship with You?

Questions - What are some examples of iniquity? How might our practices of iniquity devise evil?

Knowledge of good is good

Proverbs 19:2 Also it is not **good** *for* a soul *to be* without knowledge, And he sins who hastens with *his* feet.

Question - What happens when we react without thinking? How might responding too fast create harm?

Proverbs 19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find **good**.

Questions - What is the difference between finding understanding and keeping it? How might we improve our keeping of understanding to find good?

Ecclesiastes 9:18 Wisdom *is* better than weapons of war; But one sinner destroys much **good**.”

Question - How might one sinner destroy much good? Read Matthew 16:5-12

Jeremiah 4:22 “For My people *are* foolish, They have not known Me. They *are* silly children, And they have no understanding. They *are* wise to do evil, But to do **good** they have no knowledge.”

Questions - Might doing good be the best way to know what it does? And if we do good and experience more love and peace, might that help us better realize the contaminants of evil?

Acts 6:3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of **good** reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

Question - What is a good reputation? What character is part of a good reputation? How might they act with love, peace, truth, justice, mercy, and forgiveness? How aware would they be with good and evil?

Romans 16:19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

Questions - How does someone become wise in what is good? What was the character obedient to? Would this person stay obedient with God even though others were not?

Isaiah 7:15 Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Question - Is eating referring to thoughts or behaviors? How might refusing evil and choosing good happen at the same time?

Jeremiah 4:22 "For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge."

Question - What is one thing we can do each day to develop more knowledge with good?

Peace is good

Mark 9:50 Salt **is good**, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another."

Questions - How can we grow further with peace? How can we guide our thoughts and actions to be more with God's peace?

Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, **goodwill** toward men!”

Psalm 34:14 Depart from evil and do **good**; Seek peace and pursue it.

Question - If we seek peace and pursue it, might that action move us further from evil? Might growing our mind, heart, and soul into God’s good protect us from responding in evil?

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of **good** comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Questions - What might it sound like if we spoke more peacefully. What about if we drove more peacefully or even thought more peacefully?

Flattery is evil

Proverbs 6:24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress.

Questions - How might we become extra nice to someone in order to persuade them? How might they feel if they found out or realized it was happening?

Matthew 5:37 But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Questions - Do ever say yes holding to the idea that we can always cancel? What might be different ways we say yes when we are not certain? Is it uncomfortable to say no?

Love is good

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and **good** works,

Questions - How do we “consider one another?” What is involved on our part? Is thinking involved? If so, what sort of thinking?

Psalm 69:16 Hear me, O Lord, for Your lovingkindness *is* **good**; Turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies.

Questions - What is lovingkindness and how is it good? How might it be good for us?

Isaiah 63:7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the Lord *And* the praises of the Lord, According to all that the Lord has bestowed on us, And the great **goodness** toward the house of Israel, Which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, According to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.

Question - What is a multitude of His lovingkindnesses? What are the parts within it? Might it involve love, mercy, patience, peace, truth, justice, generosity, and forgiveness?

Vanity is evil

Ecclesiastes 2:21 For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

Questions - What is vanity? What might be vanity in our thoughts, goals, words, attitude, or behaviors?

Ecclesiastes 6:2-3 A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet God does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. This is vanity, and it is an evil affliction. If a man begets a hundred *children* and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say *that* a stillborn child *is* better than he—

Question - How can our soul be satisfied with goodness? How can we prioritize our souls to be satisfied with goodness?

Forgiveness & Mercy

Psalm 86:5 For You, Lord, **are good**, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

Question - What might it mean by 'all those who call upon You?' How might we call upon the the Lord with our heart, mind, and soul?

Proverbs 11:17 The merciful man does **good** for his own soul, But *he who is cruel* troubles his own flesh.

Psalm 145:9 The Lord *is* **good** to all, And His tender mercies *are* over all His works.

Exodus 34:6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in **goodness** and truth,

Questions - How might we grow more each day being merciful and gracious? How might we improve ourselves with longsuffering and abounding in truth?

2 Chronicles 5:13 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, *saying*: "*For He is **good**, For His mercy endures forever,*" that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud,

Question - Are we praising God with song, but not with improved good thoughts and actions? Do we praise God with self-seeking; seeking God to build ourselves? Are we praising God for the good we have experienced and the thankfulness for our partaking in it?

2 Chronicles 7:3 When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, *saying*: "*For He is **good**, For His mercy endures forever.*"

Ezra 3:11 And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord: "*For He is **good**, For His mercy endures forever toward Israel.*" Then

all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

Questions - How might worshiping God, with the belief that we are sinners and that God's good can heal us, impact our worship experience? How might experiencing mercy and being forgiven impact our worship experience? How might confessing our sins, practicing repentance, and amending our doings impact our worship experience? How might increased humbling of ourselves and sincerity impact our worship experience?

Psalms 136:1 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.

Question - If we sacrificially give our inward being more and more over to do God's good or good works, might that enhance our thankfulness to God?

Evil practiced hurts

Jeremiah 2:19 Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the Lord your God, And the fear of Me is not in you," Says the Lord God of hosts.

Question - How might our own wickedness correct us? How might our backsliding rebuke us?

Jeremiah 4:4 Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, And take away the foreskins of your hearts, You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings."

Question - What might it mean by "foreskins of your hearts?" Why might God desire for us to feel hurt? How can feeling hurt from doing wrong be good?

Jeremiah 4:14 O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, That you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?

Questions - How might evil thoughts stop us from being saved? How might we wash our heart from wickedness?

Jeremiah 18:10 if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.

Question - Would doing evil or disobedience to God be anything Jesus would teach or do?

Philippians 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

Questions - How might we reward of evil workers? How might we discern evil workers? What might we watch for?

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from every form of evil.

Question - How might we abstain from forms of evil? How might we do this better?

1 Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

Question - How might we suffer from such evil? How might we suffer inwardly?

Exodus 23:2 You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.

Question - How might we follow a crowd to do evil? If everyone in our group was practicing an evil or lacking in a good, how might we better respond to them in a good way?

Psalms 34:21 Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.

Question - How might those who hate the righteous be condemned? How might we discern the wicked from the righteous in our own groups?

Proverbs 11:19 As righteousness leads to life, So he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.

Question - How might our thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions with righteousness or evil impact life or death?

Proverbs 12:21 No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, But the wicked shall be filled with evil.

Question - How might being wicked fill us with evil? How might being righteous protect us?

Isaiah 13:11 "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Isaiah 65:12 Therefore I will number you for the sword, And you shall all bow down to the slaughter; Because, when I called, you did not answer; When I spoke, you did not hear, But did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight."

Question - How might we practice better listening for God's call, better discernment for good and evil, better choices for righteousness?

Isaiah 66:4 So will I choose their delusions, And bring their fears on them; Because, when I called, no one answered, When I spoke they did not hear; But they did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight."

Jeremiah 21:12 O house of David! Thus says the Lord: "Execute judgment in the morning; And deliver him who is plundered Out of the hand of the oppressor, Lest My fury go forth like fire And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings.

Question - Might we do less evil through doing more good? How might we set our thoughts more to God's good?

Jeremiah 44:22 So the Lord could no longer bear it, because of the evil of your doings and because of the abominations which you committed. Therefore your land is a desolation, an astonishment, a curse, and without an inhabitant, as it is this day.

Jeremiah 51:24 “And I will repay Babylon And all the inhabitants of Chaldea For all the evil they have done In Zion in your sight,” says the Lord.

Ezekiel 6:9 Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations.

Ezekiel 36:31 Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations.

Question - How might we feel inwardly after we have done evil? How might we correct it? If we make corrections, might we inwardly feel better?

Hosea 9:15 “All their wickedness is in Gilgal, For there I hated them. Because of the evil of their deeds I will drive them from My house; I will love them no more. All their princes are rebellious.

Micah 3:4 Then they will cry to the Lord, But He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, Because they have been evil in their deeds.

Questions - If we choose to remain with evil, how might that affect our being with good? If we continue down the path of evil in our thoughts and actions, how might that impact our learning about God’s good?

Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.

Question - When we do evil to others, how might it affect our conscience?

John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Question - If we expose our deeds, would that humble us? Might humbling ourselves for Godly correction be good?

John 5:29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Question - How might doing good for God improve our conscience, peace, love, or soul?

Romans 2:9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

Question Is anyone excused from the consequences with choosing good or evil?

Romans 13:4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Questions - How might it feel for someone to point out your flaws, mistakes, wrongdoings, weaknesses, and bad choices. When we choose to come to God, wouldn't our learning God's good help us see more clearly how we are not in it? When we learn how off our choices have been, might that be uncomfortable? Might we want to look away or turn off the truth that hurts?

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

Questions - What is evil company? What might that look like, sound like, or feel like? Read the seven woes in Matthew 23 and try to answer the question; who was evil company?

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Questions - How are we checking for deception? How aware are we of the deceptive ways around us and within us?

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Question - How do we know God’s righteousness and how to be grow in it? How might we discern our own thoughts, choices, and actions to help them practice God’s good instead of evil?

2 John 1:9-11 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; **11** for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

Question - If we all sin, which John says we do in 1 John, then might we all have room to improve? How might we improve our abiding in the doctrine of Christ and God? Might our improvement with Christ be doing more what Jesus instructed us to do?

Faith is good

Acts 11:24 For he was a **good** man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Questions - What is a good man? What sort of character might a good man have?

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the Lord, and do **good**; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

Questions - If we trust in the Lord wouldn’t we do good? What does it mean by ‘feed on His faithfulness?’

Psalms 73:28 But *it is* **good** for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.

Questions - How might we ‘draw near to God?’ How might we ‘declare’ God’s works? Is it just words or are actions also needed?

Repentance is good

Romans 2:4 (1-16) Or do you despise the riches of His **goodness**, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the **goodness** of God leads you to repentance?

Question - How might the goodness of God lead you to repentance?

Proverbs 24:1 Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them;

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.

Question - How might we become more prudent and less simple?

Proverbs 27:12 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; The simple pass on and are punished.

Proverbs 28:5 Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the Lord understand all.

Question - How are we learning more about justice? How are we growing our understanding with God's good.

Jeremiah 18:8 if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.

Jeremiah 23:22 But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings.

Question - How are turning or causing others to turn from evil ways?

Jeremiah 25:5 They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers forever and ever.

Jeremiah 36:3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.”

Jonah 3:8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

Jonah 3:10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

Question - What practices might help us turn from our evil way?

2 Corinthians 13:7 Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified.

Question - Are we willing to practice prayer to keep us from doing evil and to do what is honorable? How might this be good?

1 Peter 3:11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

Questions - What is the difference between seeking peace and pursuing it? How might we better pursue peace?

2 Kings 17:13 Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.”

Question - How might we better keep God’s commandments and statutes?

Psalm 37:27 Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore.

Isaiah 1:16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil,

Jeremiah 18:11 “Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.”’”

Zechariah 1:4 “Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.”’ But they did not hear nor heed Me,” says the Lord.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’

Question - How might we live and avoid death through abiding in God’s way? Also see John 15.

Psalms 119:101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word.

Question - How might growing with God involve restraining from evil and keeping to God’s word?

Perseverance is good

Galatians 6:9-10 And let us not grow weary while doing **good**, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do **good** to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Questions - What does it mean by “especially to those who are of the household of faith?” How do we discern “those who are of the household of faith?”

Romans 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing **good** seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

Questions - What does it mean by the words, “those who?” What might those who are impatient and do not continue in doing good receive? Would they get something different?

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness,

Question - What fruit are we producing? Are others around us tasting our joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness? What might we do to improve with such fruit?

Psalms 52:1 Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The **goodness** of God *endures* continually.

Question - How might we endure more with the goodness of God in our thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions?

Satisfied soul is good

Isaiah 55:2 Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, And your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is good*, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

Question - What satisfies our souls? What is God’s good and how might we eat from it?

Jeremiah 31:12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, Streaming to the **goodness** of the Lord— For wheat and new wine and oil, For the young of the flock and the herd; Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, And they shall sorrow no more at all.

Question - How might God’s goodness, that is, are partaking in it, reduce sorrow?

Jeremiah 31:14 I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance, And My people shall be satisfied with My **goodness**, says the Lord.”

Question - How might we be satisfied with God’s goodness?

Lamentations 3:25-27 The Lord *is* **good** to those who wait for Him, To the soul *who* seeks Him. *It is* **good** that *one* should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the Lord. *It is* **good** for a man to bear The yoke in his youth.

Questions - How might waiting for God bring good? Imagine a sponge quickly dipped into a puddle vs. one that sits in the puddle. Wouldn't the sponge that rests in the puddle soak up more? Might our patiently being in God's good feed our souls better?

1 Peter 4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing **good**, as to a faithful Creator.

Questions - Why might commitment of our soul to God in doing good be important?

Jeremiah 6:16 Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the **good** way *is*, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk *in it*.'

Questions - How might we walk more in God's good ways? What might happen if we put it off or never walk in it?

Good is to be done, cling to, zealous, maintain

John 5:29 and come forth—those who have done **good**, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Question - How important is it for us to do good? Might there be consequences from doing good or evil?

Romans 11:22 Therefore consider the **goodness** and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, **goodness**, if you continue in *His* **goodness**. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Question - What is meant here by severity and goodness? What might it mean by 'cut off'?

Romans 12:9 [*Behave Like a Christian*] Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is **good**.

Question - How might we 'cling to what is good?'

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good** works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Question - Are we walking in 'good works, which God prepared beforehand?' Is what we think, say, and do, good as if it was from God?

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for **good** works.

Question - What might it be like to be zealous for good works? What are good works?

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every **good** work,

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain **good** works. These things are **good** and profitable to men.

Question - Are we being careful to 'maintain good works?' What might it mean by 'be careful?'

Titus 3:14 And let our *people* also learn to maintain **good** works, to *meet* urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

Titus 1:8 but hospitable, a lover of what is **good**, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

Question - How might we practiced self-control and being sober-minded?

2 Timothy 2:9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.

Question - To what point are we applying ourselves to good works?

Suffering with good

1 Peter 2:20 For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do **good** and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God.

Questions - What is an example of doing good and suffering? How might we suffer for doing God's good?

1 Timothy 6:12-13 Fight the **good** fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the **good** confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the **good** confession before Pontius Pilate,

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the **good** fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Question - What might be an example of fighting the good fight?

2 Samuel 16:12 It may be that the Lord will look on my affliction, and that the Lord will repay me with **good** for his cursing this day."

2 Timothy 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a **good** soldier of Jesus Christ.

Question - How might we endure hardship as a good soldier?

Jesus says in Luke 6:33 And if you do **good** to those who do **good** to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

Question - Is our doing good too easy? Could we struggle more to the good we do?

Various forms of evil

Romans 1:29-30 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Question - How might we learn within ourselves such evil?

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Question - How might we put such evil away from ourselves?

1 Timothy 6:4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,

Question - How might handle situations with someone who is seeking and argument?

Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Question - How might passion, desire, and covetousness be evil?

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Good work inwardly

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a **good** work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

Question - What might be a good inward work?

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* **good** pleasure.

Question - How might God work within us?

2 Timothy 1:14 That **good** thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Question - How might we keep a good by the Holy Spirit within us?

1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as **good** stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Question - What might a good steward of grace be like?

Evil heart involves our thoughts

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

Mark 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

Question - What are good and evil treasures and what do they have to do with our hearts?

Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Matthew 9:4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?

Psalms 140:2 Who plan evil things in their hearts; They continually gather together for war.

Question - How might we think with our hearts?

Hebrews 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

Question - What might an unbelieving heart be like?

2 Chronicles 12:14 And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord.

2 Chronicles 25:2 And he did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a **loyal** heart.

Learn to do Good

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether **good** or bad.

Question - How important is it to grow good within us?

2 Corinthians 6 (read all)

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do **good**; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

Question - Notice how when it says “learnt to do good” it provides examples of behaviors to act upon? Are you willing to learn through new action?

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of **good** report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Question - How might we meditate upon these things? How often should we meditate upon them?

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both **good** and evil.

Question - How might we have our senses exercised to discern both good and evil?

Hebrews 13:9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* **good** that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Question - How might our heart be established by grace?

Living by own ideas or ways is not good

Isaiah 65:2 I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way *that is* not **good**, According to their own thoughts;

Question - Have you ever offered helpful advice and then the other person did not take it and suffered? Do we sometimes trust in our own thoughts instead of God's and suffer from it?

Following dictates of the heart over God's ways is evil

Jeremiah 11:8 Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done.'"

Jeremiah 13:10 This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates of their hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing.

Jeremiah 16:12 And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me.

Question - What can we do when our hearts are leading us astray from God's good?

Matthew 12:34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Question - How can we grow more abundance of God's good within our hearts?

Thinking and speaking evil

Jude 1:8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

Question - Can we dream more about how to respond with God's good?

Jude 1:10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

Question - Can we seek to better understand things, Godly things, that are new or different?

Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil.

Question - How might our own ideas and understanding block our growth with God?

Jeremiah 18:12 [God's Warning Rejected] And they said, "That is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart."

Question - Are we willing to set aside some of our ways in order to grow more with God's?

Proverbs 14:16 A wise man fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident.

Question - What in life might we place confidence in that is not part of god's plan?

Ecclesiastes 9:3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing happens to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

(The Twelve Step Programs have helped many find saving grace for their souls.)

Question - How might we surrender our madness to God for healing?

Jeremiah 7:24 Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.

Question - Can obedience to God's good will help us? Can you give an example?

Being perverse or against God's ways is evil

Proverbs 2:12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things,

Question - How might we be delivered "from the way of evil?"

Proverbs 2:14 Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked;

Question - How might someone learn to delight in God's good instead of perversity?

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

Question - How can we grow our love in doing good? Might growing our love with God train us to despise or hate evil?

Proverbs 17:20 He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.

Question - Can someone trained to deceive learn to to be honest? If so, How might that happen?

Thoughts, devise

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Questions - How can we use our senses more to improve discernment with good and evil? What sort of senses is the author referring to?

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Question - How can we add more thoughts to be about peace?

Zechariah 8:17 Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,' Says the Lord."

Questions - What is a false oath? Is saying we will do something and then not doing it a false oath? Is committing to something and then breaking it a false oath? Is saying we are devoted, yet knowing within ourselves we are unsure making a false oath?

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Question - How can we grow abundance of good with our hearts? What can we do today?

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Question - Are we growing freedom from an evil conscience?

1 Peter 3:16-17 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Question - How can good conduct cause others to 'revile?'

1 Corinthians 13:5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

Question - How might we decrease evil thoughts and self-seeking?

Jeremiah 11:15 “What has My beloved to do in My house, Having done lewd deeds with many? And the holy flesh has passed from you. When you do evil, then you rejoice.

Question - How can we grow understanding of our deeds, choices, and responses? Are we giving attention to how we might rejoice in evil?

Ezekiel 38:10 ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan:

Question - How can we improve thought awareness to help protect ourselves?

Hosea 7:15 Though I disciplined and strengthened their arms, Yet they devise evil against Me;

Proverbs 14:22 Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.

Micah 2:1 Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand.

Question - How do we respond when we are in a situation where evil is devised?

Proverbs 11:27 He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks evil.

Proverbs 13:19 A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, But it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil.

Question - How can we depart from evil in our choices or thoughts?

Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

Proverbs 16:27 An ungodly man digs up evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire.

Question - Do we carefully watch our words?

Courage is good

2 Chronicles 19:11 ... Behave courageously, and the Lord will be with the **good**."

Question - What courageous behavior have you seen done with God's good?

Ezra 10:4 Arise, for *this matter is your responsibility*. We also *are* with you. Be of **good** courage, and do *it*."

Numbers 13:20 whether the land *is* rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of **good** courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

Question - How might being rich or poor impact our courage?

Deuteronomy 31:6-7 Be strong and of **good** courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of **good** courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

Question - When we face struggle, what thoughts come to us? Is there fear, worry, doubt, or hope, faith, and courage?

Deuteronomy 31:23 Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and of **good** courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you."

Joshua 1:6 Be strong and of **good** courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

2 Samuel 10:12 Be of **good** courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the Lord do *what is good* in His sight.”

1 Chronicles 19:13 Be of **good** courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the Lord do *what is good* in His sight.”

Question - What is good courage vs. bad courage?

1 Chronicles 28:20 And David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and of **good** courage, and do *it*; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God—my God—*will be* with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.

Psalms 31:24 Be of **good** courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the Lord.

Question - If good courage can strengthen our heart, what might bad courage do?

Isaiah 41:6 Everyone helped his neighbor, And said to his brother, “Be of **good** courage!”

Question - Are we helping others? If so, how? Is it with good courage? If so, how courageous is it?

Joshua 1:8-9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have **good** success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of **good** courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

Question - Is it good courage to meditate on God's law day and night and do what it says?

Joshua 1:18 Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of **good** courage."

Joshua 10:25 Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of **good** courage, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

1 Chronicles 22:13 Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the Lord charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of **good** courage; do not fear nor be dismayed.

Questions - Are we to take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments? Would that be good courage?

Psalms 138:1-4 *I would have lost heart*, unless I had believed That I would see the **goodness** of the Lord In the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; Be of **good** courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

Question - Are we waiting on the Lord? If so, how and for how long? Where are our thoughts as we wait? Are we pondering God's good and how to improve with it?

Speak Good

1 Kings 12:7 And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak **good** words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

Question - What sort of words are 'good words?'

2 Kings 20:19 So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken *is* **good**!" For he said, "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?"

Questions - How might we improve with speaking peace and truth? How might we help others?

2 Chronicles 10:7 And they spoke to him, saying, “If you are kind to these people, and please them, and speak **good** words to them, they will be your servants forever.”

Question - How might kindness impact the speaking of good words?

Job 2:10 But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept **good** from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 15:3 Should he reason with unprofitable talk, Or by speeches with which he can do no **good**?

Question - What might unprofitable talk look or sound like?

1 Timothy 2:1-3 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. For this *is* **good** and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

Question - Are we speaking good to some people and not others. Might we avoid conversations with some for our own comforts and interests?

1 Peter 3:10 -11 For “He who would love life And see **good** days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do **good**; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

Questions - Do we complain, talk about how others are wrong, manipulate, or deny truth? Do we avoid making right wrongs that might bring peace? Are we keeping to truth with mercy, compassion, patience, and kindness? How might we do better?

Numbers 24:13 ‘If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord, to do **good** or bad of my own will. What the Lord says, that I must speak’?

Question - Is what we say and how we say it influenced by physical comforts, money, status, or approval from others?

Titus 2: 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

Titus 3:2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

James 4:11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Question - What is speaking evil? Please refer to the 'Good & Evil Quick Reference.'

1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

Question - What is 'all deceit?' What is hypocrisy? What is envy?

1 Peter 3:9-10 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.

Question - How might we feel in our hearts if we do good for others who may have wronged us? How might we feel if we forgive and trust more with God's good than hurt pride? What might others think of us, others who are right with God? How might this impact our spirit, mind, and soul?

Psalm 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.

Psalm 50:19 You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue frames deceit.

Psalm 52:3 You love evil more than good, Lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah

Question - If we meditated upon God's good thinking how our practicing it can heal our inward being, wouldn't we be more likely to grow in it?

God's truth

Psalm 100:5 For the Lord *is* **good**; His mercy *is* everlasting, And His truth *endures* to all generations.

Psalm 36:3 The words of his mouth *are* wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise *and* to do **good**.

John 7:12 And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is **good**"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people."

Questions - In what ways can people be deceiving? Is misleading, misinforming, half-truths, or white lies deceptive? Does such behavior lead to wisdom or Godly good?

Numbers 23:19 "God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it **good**?"

Question - How diligent are we to ensure we do what we say and follow through with our agreements?

Proverbs 20:23 Diverse weights *are* an abomination to the Lord, And dishonest scales *are* not **good**.

Question - Do we check ourselves to judge equally and fairly, not being swayed by fear nor envy? Can weights change their perspective?

Isaiah 38:3 and said, "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done *what is* **good** in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Questions - In what ways are we walking in truth with a loyal heart? What are some other ways we can do this?

Isaiah 39:8 So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken *is good!*" For he said, "At least there will be peace and truth in my days."

Question - How valuable is peace in truth to us and to God?

3 John 1:12 Demetrius has a **good** testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.

Question - What are we doing with our walk in truth that can improve our testimony?

Proverbs 16:6 In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil.

Questions - How might mercy and truth Atone for iniquity? How might our fear in the Lord help us depart from evil? How might both of these work together?

Lying, scheming, deception, and not speaking up for truth is evil

Proverbs 12:20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy.

Question - How might we become more like counselors of peace?

Proverbs 17:4 An evildoer gives heed to false lips; A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.

Isaiah 32:7 Also the schemes of the schemer are evil; He devises wicked plans To destroy the poor with lying words, Even when the needy speaks justice.

Isaiah 59:4 No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.

Question - What might empty words sound like?

Isaiah 59:7 Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths.

Jeremiah 9:3 “And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies. They are not valiant for the truth on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil, And they do not know Me,” says the Lord.

Self examination question - When is it okay for us to lie in our own life? What lies have we told that are okay with God and spiritually good? Have we connived ourselves it is okay? Why or how?

Jeremiah 23:14 Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.

Titus 1:12 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

Questions - How might we respond when around others who deceive or lie? Lying does exist. Will we encourage it with a smile, condone it, or try to correct it?

Proverbs 28:10 Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, He himself will fall into his own pit; But the blameless will inherit good.

Question - Are we blameless? Are we improving to be more blameless? Are we setting our thoughts to walk more into ways that are blameless?

Isaiah 59:15 So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.

Hosea 7:15 Though I disciplined and strengthened their arms, Yet they devise evil against Me;

Micah 7:3 That they may successfully do evil with both hands— The prince asks for gifts, The judge seeks a bribe, And the great man utters his evil desire; So they scheme together.

Question - When around iniquity, how might we be able to respond with God's good?

Nahum 1:11 From you comes forth one Who plots evil against the Lord, A wicked counselor.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Questions - Are we slow to correct evil work, deception, and lies? How might we respond better with God's good strength, faith, love, and truth toward peace?

Not Partiality or favoritism

Proverbs 24:23 These *things* also *belong* to the wise: *It is* not **good** to show partiality in judgment.

Questions - Are more partial to the poor or rich? Are we more partial to others who wear the same sports jersey, drive the same car, in the same group, skin color, neighborhood, etc?

Proverbs 28:21 To show partiality *is* not **good**, Because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.

Question - How might we be swayed by money, lust, or things? How might we grow our faith to help us with such temptation?

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and **good** fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Question - Are we growing in such wisdom? How might we grow more?

James 2:8 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Question - How might we be judging others or ourselves with condemnation? How might we move more toward peace, gentleness, mercy, and sincerity?

Pride & Arrogance are evil

James 4:16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Questions - What is arrogance? What is boasting? What is a real life example here and now of boating in your arrogance?

Proverbs 30:32 If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, Or if you have devised evil, put your hand on your mouth.

Question - Have we practiced exalting ourselves?

Job 35:12 There they cry out, but He does not answer, Because of the pride of evil men.

Question - Is selfish pride good or evil? Is being proud in anything aside from God good?

Charitable deeds are good

Acts 9:36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of **good** works and charitable deeds which she did.

Question - How might charitable deeds improve souls? How else might it be good for our inward parts?

Righteousness & Justice, God's will are good

Proverbs 13:21 Evil pursues sinners, But to the righteous, good shall be repaid.

Psalm 33:5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the **goodness** of the Lord.

Hebrews 13:21 make you complete in every **good** work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

Questions - Do we love righteousness? Are we practicing good works? How might we be repaid through our participation with righteousness?

Proverbs 2:20 So you may walk in the way of **goodness**, And keep to the paths of righteousness.

Luke 23:50 Now behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a council member, a **good** and just man.

Question - What is a good and just man. Can a man be good outwardly, but not inwardly? Can a man be good inwardly, but not outwardly?

Proverbs 29:6 By transgression an evil man is snared, But the righteous sings and rejoices.

Isaiah 33:15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who despises the gain of oppressions, Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from seeing evil:

Question - How might we, each individually, walk righteously and speak uprightly?

Rebellion of God's good is evil

Proverbs 17:11 An evil man seeks only rebellion; Therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

Questions - If we seek only rebellion, with what sort of company would we keep? What type of people would we listen to?

Jeremiah 2:13 “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns —broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Question - If we abide in self-seeking, pride, or deceit, would we be wanting to humble ourselves, serve others, or hear uncomfortable Godly truth?

Jeremiah 23:10 For the land is full of adulterers; For because of a curse the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their course of life is evil, And their might is not right.

Regarding ‘curse’ - read Ezekiel 18

Daniel 11:27 Both these kings’ hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time.

Question - If we live a life based upon superficial goals and activities, how can we grow spiritually? How might living a life acting as if God does not exist be evil or deceitful?

2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

2 Peter 2:12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,

Question - How might we speak evil of things we do not understand? Why would we say anything about something we do not know? Wouldn’t it be better to learn first, gain experience, and then discuss it?

Jeremiah 35:15 I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, ‘Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then

you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.' But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.

Question - Are we humble enough to begin the practice of turning from our evil way? How might we 'amend' our 'doings?'

Psalm 34:14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Questions - What is it like to depart from evil without doing good? Would that be like half measures? How might we 'seek peace and pursue it?'

Micah 3:2 You who hate good and love evil; Who strip the skin from My people, And the flesh from their bones;

Question - How might we love good better? How might we hate evil more?

Do not render evil for good

Psalm 38:20 Those also who render evil for **good**, They are my adversaries, because I follow *what is good*.

Question - Are we associating with others who render evil for good? Are we paying attention to the good and evil that is present here today?

1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is **good** both for yourselves and for all.

Question - How might we pursue what is good for ourselves? How might we pursue what is good for others?

3 John 1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is **good**. He who does **good** is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

Question - What good are we willing to imitate more?

Matthew 5:39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Question - What does retaliation do to relationships? What does forgiveness and mercy do? Where does pride and being humble fit in?

Matthew 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Question - What inward spiritual sense or feeling might we produce through loving our enemy? If we continue in it, what might that do to the relationship?

Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Question - How might we better respond with good in our hearts and minds when our pride is hurt? How might we direct our thoughts with good when others are rude or hurtful?

1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

Questions - What does 'always pursue' mean? Are we willing to grow more with our hearts, minds, words, and actions toward the perfect goal of 'always pursue?'

Mixing Evil with Good

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Question - What might mixing evil with good be like? What if we mixed sloth with labor, deceit with humbling ourselves, greed with lending,

forgiveness with lust, or love with vanity? Does mixing evil with good impact good?

Mark 3:4 Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

Jeremiah 7:30 For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight," says the Lord. "They have set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to pollute it.

Question - When evil is done, over and over, in our group or church, what good might we be able to do?

Pure in heart, walk uprightly, conduct, honorable

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what *is* **good**; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

Question - How might we love mercy more or walk more humbly with God?

Psalms 73:1 Truly God *is* **good** to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.

Question - How might our heart become more pure?

Psalms 84:11 For the Lord God *is* a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No **good thing** will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

James 3:13 Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by **good** conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

Question - How might we practice meekness? What might meekness have to do with wisdom?

1 Peter 2:12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* **good** works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Questions - How might others witnessing our good works be good? How might they help others to glorify God?

Isaiah 56:2 Blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who lays hold on it; Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil.”

Question - What new action might we do to protect ourselves from doing evil?

doing for God is good

Matthew 6:1 [*Do **Good** to Please God*] “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Question - How might we help or serve others ‘to be seen by them?’ How might seeking approval from others not be good?

1 Timothy 3:7 Moreover he must have a **good** testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that **good** and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Thessalonians 3:13 But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing **good**.

Question - How might we grow weary in doing good?

1 Peter 2:12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Question - How might our good works glorify God?

3 John 1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

Question - How might we avoid imitating what is evil and ensure what we do is good?

Heeding the word is good

Proverbs 16:20 He who heeds the word wisely will find **good**, And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he.

Question - How might heeding the word help us find good and be happy?
Hebrews 6:5 and have tasted the **good** word of God and the powers of the age to come,

Question - How might we taste the good word of God?

Give, lend, but do not borrow

Deuteronomy 28:12 The Lord will open to you His **good** treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

Questions - Do we lend to others? Are we in debt?

Psalms 112:5 A **good** man deals graciously and lends; He will guide his affairs with discretion.

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, do **good**, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Question - Do we lend to others as if giving to God, expecting nothing back?

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: **good** measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Hebrews 13:16 But do not forget to do **good** and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Question - How might others be spiritually impacted through giving and receiving? How might you be spiritually impacted?

Ecclesiastes 5:13 There is a severe evil which I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt.

Question - How might riches kept to oneself create hurt?

Ecclesiastes 5:16 And this also is a severe evil— Just exactly as he came, so shall he go. And what profit has he who has labored for the wind?

Question - What does 'labored for the wind' mean?

Love of Money is evil

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Question - How might love for money create sorrow? What is the difference between living a good life and one with greediness?

Proverbs 28:22 A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

Question - How high of a priority is our job or having money? Is it higher than spiritual practices to grow more with God?

Not Good to be alone

Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, "*It is not **good** that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*"

Question - How much time do we spend alone? Is there a balance?

Good work can be disqualified

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every **good** work.

Question - How is our love, patience, kindness, truth, and other forms of spiritual good? Is our good work qualified or disqualified?

1 Corinthians 5:13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”

Question - Are we discerning those who are evil from those who are good? How might we recognize someone who is evil from someone who is good?

Not compulsion, stewardship, or because we have to

Philemon 1:14 But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your **good** deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary.

Question - What is the difference between doing something we believe we have to do and something we want to do? How might it be different in our thoughts, feelings, attitude, words, and actions?

Proverbs 22:1 A **good** name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.

Question - Is it better to be rich with money or to be right with God in poverty? How might this impact our goals, perceived needs, choices, and daily actions?

Covet & Envy is Evil

Proverbs 12:12 The wicked covet the catch of evil men, But the root of the righteous yields fruit.

Questions - What is good about yielding fruit? How is it good? What does that feel like? How might practicing righteousness yield fruit?

Psalm 37:1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

Questions - What is an evildoer? What is evil? What might a worker of iniquity do?

Doing good silences ignorance

1 Peter 2:14-15 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do **good**. For this is the will of God, that by doing **good** you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

Questions - What good have you done where you put to silence the ignorance of others? What might that be like?

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Question - If we are doing right by authority, why would we be afraid? If God is forgiving, merciful, compassionate, truthful, and just, why would be afraid when we are doing good?

Peace is good

Job 22:21 “Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; Thereby **good** will come to you.

Question - How can we grow more peace within us? How might someone who is peaceful walk, talk, think, and live? What might their goals be?

Teach good

1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the **good** and the right way.

Questions - What is the good and right way for you? Do we keep in mind how we can better respond with God's good and right way?

2 Chronicles 6:27 then hear *in* heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the **good** way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

Question - Are we around others who teach the good way, how we should walk?

Nehemiah 9:20 You also gave Your **good** Spirit to instruct them, And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst.

Question - Are we seeking instructions from God's good Spirit?

Psalms 143:10 Teach me to do Your will, For You *are* my God; Your Spirit *is* **good**. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

Galatians 6:6 Let him who is taught the word share in all **good** things with him who teaches.

Question - Are we sharing the good we have learned with others?

1 Timothy 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a **good** minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the **good** doctrine which you have carefully followed.

Question - Are we nourished in the words of faith? Are we carefully following them?

Romans 15:2 Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* **good**, leading to edification.

Question - When we please others, is it for edification? What might be some examples of pleasing someone for their edification?

Romans 15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of **goodness**, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Question - How might God's goodness expressed through us admonish one another?

Titus 2:3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of **good** things—

Question - How might being reverent, avoiding slandering and much wine, help us be teachers of good things?

John 7:7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.

Question - How might God want us to respond when around others who are practicing evil?

John 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

Question - How can we grow and improve in this world with God's good? What mindset can we grow to help reduce evil within others and ourselves?

Good on Sabbath

Matthew 12:12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do **good** on the Sabbath."

Luke 6:9 Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do **good** or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?"

Question - Are we seeking to grow God's good in our free time? How might we improve our focus with God in other areas of our lives?

Abhor evil is good

Psalms 36:4 He devises wickedness on his bed; He sets himself in a way *that is* not **good**; He does not abhor evil.

Question - What is the evil we ought to abhor?

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts **good** habits."

Question - How might evil company corrupt good habits? What are some Godly good habits?

Galatians 4:17-18 They zealously court you, *but* for no **good**; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. But it is **good** to be zealous in a **good** thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

Question - Do we work harder when the CEO or top boss is around? Might we act different? Can we improve our zeal when alone? What is being 'zealous in a good thing?' How might we do that 'always?'

Amos 5:15 Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate. It may be that the Lord God of hosts Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Question - What is one way we can love good better?

Romans 12:9 [Behave Like a Christian] Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

Question - How might we abhor evil while being at peace with love?

1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

Question - How might we respond when around others who lust after evil things? What might we say or do? What good can we practice?

Psalms 97:10 You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.

Questions - Can evil interfere with someone being delivered? If we condone evil practices, might our silence provide an opportunity for someone to practice evil?

Proverbs 4:14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.

Question - What are some ways we have witnessed others around us walk in the way of evil? What consequences might they have experienced?

Psalm 36:4 He devises wickedness on his bed; He sets himself in a way that is not good; He does not abhor evil.

Question - How might we better respond with God's good when our minds wander toward evil?

Caring for enemies

Luke 6:27 "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do **good** to those who hate you,

Questions - Who hates you? What is something good you to do to them?

Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for **good** things in the sight of all men.

Questions - What was a scenario when someone you know did something evil? How might we respond to such a person using God's good way, character, or principles?

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with **good**.

Questions - Which produces more Godly good, responding with the intention to hurt or to help? How might our pride interfere? Would humbling ourselves help?

Romans 14:16 Therefore do not let your **good** be spoken of as evil;

Question - Might our continuing to do good despite what others say teach others the truth?

Romans 14:21 *It is **good** neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.*

Question - Which promotes more good, cooperation or argument?

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”

Question - Which better, increasing in material or spiritual? How might we be helpful to others with debt in spiritual terms?

Not to burden

Acts 15:28 For it seemed **good** to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

Fidelity

Titus 2:10 not pilfering, but showing all **good** fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Question - How might we choose to be more loyal to God’s way in our daily walk?

Good to Give Thanks to God

Psalm 92:1 *It is* **good** to give thanks to the Lord, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

Questions - What is meant by the saying “to Your name?” (Read a few more verses in Psalm 92 paying attention to what it says to do. Think about verse 4.) Has God’s work in us made us joyful?

Psalm 106:1 Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is* **good**! For His mercy *endures* forever. (Read through to verse 8)

Question - What might this imply about us, God, and how to cooperate with God?

Psalm 107:1 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is good*! For His mercy *endures* forever.

Psalm 107:8-9 Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the Lord *for* His **goodness**, And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with **goodness**.

Read the whole Psalm 107, but pay special attention to verses 6-9.

Questions - How has God satisfied our soul? How has our hunger been fed by God's good? How much of God's good which we have chosen to give ourselves to do has fed us?

Psalm 118:1 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is good*! For His mercy *endures* forever.

Psalm 147:1 Praise the Lord! For *it is good* to sing praises to our God; For *it is pleasant, and* praise is beautiful.

Questions - Is joy something we are to pretend when we do not feel it? Are thanks and praises to result from a certain time of day or from spiritual goodness when it occurs?

1 Timothy 4:4 For every creature of God *is good*, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

Question - How might we give to others without sincere truthful love? How might that have a different affect upon people?

Good News

Righteousness - Psalm 40:9 I have proclaimed the **good** news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know.

Question - What is one way we can "proclaimed the **good** news of righteousness?"

Peace - Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings **good** news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of

good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Question - What is one way we can proclaim peace?

Peace - Nahum 1:15 Behold, on the mountains The feet of him who brings **good** tidings, Who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, Perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.

Questions - How might we bring good tidings? How are good tidings peaceful? How might they have discerned the wicked and cut them off?

Peace - Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of **good** things!”

Questions - What is spiritual peace? What does peace feel like? How might this be preached? Would peace be preached with shouting? Might it come from someone who is calm, without worry, and confident?

Faith & Love - 1 Thessalonians 3:6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us **good** news of your faith and love, and that you always have **good** remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also *to see you*—

Questions - How might good news of faith and love be brought? How might a persons demeanor be with faith and love? What might the voice sound like? Would it be calm or hurried? Would there be bitterness or worry? Would such a person be self-seeking?

Rest is good

Genesis 49:15 He saw that rest *was* **good**, And that the land *was* pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear *a burden*, And became a band of slaves.

Questions - How might rest be good? What is enough rest or too much rest? Can resting too long not be good? Is how we think, speak, and act impacting the good while we rest?

Labor is Good

Ecclesiastes 3:13 and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the **good** of all his labor—it *is* the gift of God.

Question - Do we “enjoy the good of all (our) labor?” How might we learn to enjoy it more?

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Here is what I have seen: *It is* **good** and fitting *for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the **good** of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it *is* his heritage.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, **good** and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

Questions - How might we experience joy? Is joy subjective? Does joy stem from perspective? Might we be able to perceive joyfully in anything?

Matthew 25:23 His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, **good** and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

Questions - What is a good and faithful servant? What might such a persons mind and heart be with? How might their attitude and interests be?

Galatians 4:28-29 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is **good**, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is **good** for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Questions - What might good edification sound like? What might education be like to someone who is afraid, worried, dishonest, self-seeking, fake, or oppressive? How might we help correct others from corruption?

Galatians 6:7-8 with **good**will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever **good** anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

Question - When we serve, how might we discern if we are doing it for the Lord or for others?

Revelation 2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

Questions - How might we test others who teach the Bible? Are we testing our leaders or are we relying upon schools and institutions? Do we continue to test to ensure our leaders stay the right path? Are we testing their spiritual inward being for good character?

Neither good nor evil

Jeremiah 10:5 They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good."

Question - Have you ever been in a difficult situation, not knowing what to say, and do nothing? What might it be like to freeze up and do nothing when something really ought to be done? Might someone do this many times in their lives? How might someone become unfrozen or more active in growth with God?

(Also read Luke 11-27) Question - What might you do? Are we willing to take risk with God's good?

Habakkuk 1:13 You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?

Question - When is it good not to hold our tongue and speak Godly good edification? When have we done that? What might that feel like?

Zephaniah 1:12 “And it shall come to pass at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And punish the men Who are settled in complacency, Who say in their heart, ‘The Lord will not do good, Nor will He do evil.’

Question - Might inaction of good be any good? Might living an ordinary life be Godly good? What might complacency be like?

Oppression is evil

Zechariah 7:10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.’

Question - What might oppression be like in a school, work place, church, or home?

Law can be good if used correctly

1 Timothy 1:8 But we know that the law *is* **good** if one uses it lawfully,

Question - What might be some examples of good used lawfully and unlawfully?

Good satisfies

Proverbs 14:14 The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, But a **good** man *will be satisfied* from above.

Question - How might being a good man be satisfying?

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

Question - How might practicing God’s good improve protection from evil?

Misc.

1 Timothy 3:1-2 This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a **good** work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of **good** behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

Question - What might being blameless be like? How might we describe character that is blameless? What might sober-minded be like? How might you define good hospitality? How might you describe someone who able to teach God's good? Might they need experiential knowledge?

1 Timothy 5:10 well reported for **good** works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every **good** work.

Question - How might we improve our own following of every good work?

1 Timothy 6:18-19 *Let them* do **good**, that they be rich in **good** works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a **good** foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Question - How might we be more "rich in **good** works?"

Titus 2:7 in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of **good** works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

Question - How might we better show ourselves like this? What might integrity, reverence, and incorruptibility be like in our mind, heart, choices, and character? What actions and thoughts might we have?

1 Timothy 5:4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is **good** and acceptable before God.

Question - How might we show piety at home? How might we repay our parents?

