

The Good Life

[Psalms 100](#)

[Psalm 100:1-5 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.

² Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.

³ Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

⁴ Enter His gates with thanksgiving *And* His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him,
bless His name.

⁵ For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting *And* His faithfulness to all
generations.”

We all know of people who suffer from deteriorating health, financial reverses, and other troubles. How are we to process such situations in light of what the Scriptures teach about the Lord’s goodness and the expression of His benevolence towards us?

First, God’s character is perfect, and everything He does is right. (See [Deuteronomy 32:4](#)).

[Deuteronomy 32:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness
and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”

He is “compassionate and gracious ... and abounding in lovingkindness” ([Psalm 103:8](#)).

[Psalm 103:8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸“The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in
lovingkindness.”

By His very nature, God is good. Second, our heavenly Father expresses His goodness based on His purpose of conforming us to the image of Christ ([Romans 8:29](#)). From the Lord’s perspective, everything that fits into His plan is beneficial for us.

[Romans 8:29 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁹“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become conformed to the
image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren*”.

The greatest demonstration of our Father’s goodness is seen in His Son’s life and death. Jesus left His heavenly home, took on the form of man, suffered, and died in our place so we might be forgiven ([Philippians 2:6-8](#)). Because of what our Savior endured, we who have trusted in Him are adopted into God’s family, and heaven is our eternal home.

[Philippians 2:6-8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶“Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a
thing to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the
likeness of men.

⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Talmit Shorts 08/03/17

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At the time of Christ's crucifixion, the disciples could not see anything beneficial in it. They knew only great sorrow. But we understand that God gave His own Son so that He might accomplish our salvation ([Romans 8:32](#)).

Romans 8:32 (NASB)

³²“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”

Our definition of the good life would probably include material success, good health, and the absence of trouble—things that make us happy right now. But God has an eternal perspective, and He always works to fulfill His long-term plan for us. We can trust in His goodness, even in dark times.