

## WEEK FIVE

### Attributes and Promises of God

#### **Why can we trust God and believe His Promises?**

#### GOD IS GOOD

“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?”  
Numbers 23:19

“Do you feel as though God isn’t answering your prayers? Are you tempted to doubt His goodness? When I feel this way, I have to remind myself that my circumstances aren’t the barometer of God’s love and goodness—the cross is. He has shown how good He is by giving His only Son Jesus to die for our sin. We can’t rely on our feelings. But day by day as we choose to trust Him more, we learn to believe with confidence that God is good—all the time.” Anne Cetas

#### **This week spend time reading and meditating on these Scriptures.**

God is Good: Matthew 19:17; 1 John 1:5; Psalm 145:8-9; Psalm 119:68; Nahum 1:7; Psalm 31:19-20; Psalm 107:8-9; Psalm 34:8; Matthew 7:11; 1 Chronicles 16:34; Exodus 34:6; Psalm 100:5; Romans 8:28; James 1:16-17; Psalm 27:13-14 and many, many more.

#### **As you read and meditate on these Scriptures consider these questions:**

What does it mean that God is good?

Do you think of God that way? Why or why not?

What does knowing that God is good mean to you personally?

What difference could that knowledge make in your life today?

“The very first temptation in the history of mankind was the temptation to be discontent...that is exactly what discontent(ment) is - a questioning of the goodness of God.” Jerry Bridges

Do you ever wonder if God’s definition of good is different than yours?

Why does the way we define what is “good” matter?

When you think of “good” what comes to mind?

What are some of the things God thinks are good?

What are some of the things the world thinks are good?

Do you “have to remind yourself that your circumstances aren’t the barometer of God’s love and goodness”? What is?

“Joy is a quiet gladness of heart as one contemplates the goodness of God’s saving grace in Christ Jesus.” John Calvin

Being created in God's image, is this an attribute that belongs to God alone, or one that we can reflect as His image-bearers?

What have you learned about God that you didn't know before?

Do you have a better idea of who God is? In what way?

How does it help you to see Him "high and lifted up" as it says in Isaiah 6:1?

What is it about this attribute that comforts you, gives you joy, hope, or assurance?

Is there anything that makes you fearful, worried, or insecure? Please explain.

In what way does this attribute help you to know that God loves you?

Does it make you want to worship Him more often and intentionally?

"It is only the goodness of God sensibly experienced by us which opens our mouth to celebrate His praise." John Calvin

### **The Promise for Week Five**

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:9-13

Is this promise familiar to you?

Spend some time today meditating upon each sentence.

Who is speaking?

There are several promises inside this promise. What are they?

What do these promises mean to you personally?

Do you talk to God regularly? Do you have confidence that He hears you? (See Isaiah 65:24; 1 John 5:14-15)

Do you doubt that He is good when He doesn't answer the way you were hoping?

"God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them." Augustine

Do you ask your heavenly Father for more of the Holy Spirit? Did you know you can do that? (See John 14:26; Romans 8:26-27)

Do you need God to pour out His Spirit on you today? What difference do you think it would make?

"God especially loves to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. We never need doubt God's desire to pour out His Spirit. The problem is in our receiving, not in God's desire to give." David Guzik

What do you think is the correlation between knowing that God is good and this promise? Why is this correlation important?

Do you believe this promise? Is there evidence in your life that you are living this promise? Can you trust God to fulfill this promise? Why?

How could you use this promise in your life today?

“God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer