

## Day 9

# Goodness

**Silence (2 minutes)** Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

**Scripture** *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”* Romans 12:9

**Discussion** In Paul’s letter to the church at Rome he wrote about offering ourselves to God, including how we serve Him with the gifts of the Spirit He has given us. He then writes the above passage telling us to cling to what is good. Goodness is not a word we use much anymore in our culture. We know it’s positive, but it can be difficult to define or describe. The Oxford Dictionary defines goodness as “the quality of being morally good or virtuous.” Pure goodness then would be the character of someone without sin. Jesus said, *“No one is good – except God alone”* (Mark 10:18). And of course, Jesus is making the point that He is good, and that He is God. So, what is good and how do we cling to it? Organizations, activities, thoughts, or speech which are morally good, virtuous, sinless, to some degree reflect God’s character and His will, and are good. Whatever honors God, builds up His Church, affirms the image of God in people, and respects God’s creation are in accordance with His will, reflect His character, and are good. One way to honor God is to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Loving our neighbor as ourselves honors God’s image in people. God created them, loves them, and Jesus died for them. We are not called to just passively let life happen to us in what we watch, do, or speak. We are called to actively *“cling to what is good.”* We choose how to spend our time and money. We choose what to watch, read, do, and think. Are we choosing what is good and clinging to it? In computer science there is the negative phrase “garbage in, garbage out.” It means that if the data we input is of poor quality, then the quality of the results or output will also be poor. We might then also say, “goodness in, goodness out.” To choose to have habits and patterns which cling to what is good results in goodness being expressed in our lives.

**Application** Before the end of the day, tell God all the ways He has shown His goodness to you today and thank Him.

**Prayer** God I praise You that You are good. Only You are good. You know and see all things in my life. You know my choices. Please forgive me for the times I knowingly do not cling to goodness. Show me the areas of my life which I have hidden from myself; where I choose to not cling to goodness. I pray that my thoughts, speech, and actions more consistently focus on what is a reflection of You. Thank You that You are working in me. Amen.

**Silence (2 minutes)** Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

**Scripture memory** for the week: *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*  
Colossians 3:12

