

21 DAYS OF CONSECRATION: TIMES OF RENEWAL

A FRESH VISION OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Houses of Light Church • January 13-14, 2024 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This second week of the 21 Days of Consecration our devotionals have been aimed at reconnecting with the will and voice of God to recognize our purpose. Also to be dependent on Him and know the Father to cultivate the fear of the Lord while recognizing His goodness and I believe that **if we are to receive the times of refreshing that come from the presence of the Lord it is very important to have a renewed vision of this aspect of God's character.**

II. THE GOODNESS OF GOD

- A. The definition of God's goodness that I put in my devotional was: *'His decision to do good to us instead of exercising the justice that our sins deserve. He deals with us with His great love instead of His righteous judgments.'*

- B. We must understand that holiness is God's most outstanding quality (Rev. 4:8) and His expression toward us is love (1 Jn. 4:8). **When God shows His goodness He is showing Himself.**

Psal. 89:14 "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you."

- C. The Scriptures reveal that **"There is no good, but only one, God"** (Mark 10:18), and this must be understood not only that in His essence He is unique, supreme but also, that in Himself the Lord is kind with all creatures, which is also called His kindness. **When the Lord revealed Himself to Moses, He showed Himself as compassionate and merciful:**

Ex. 34:5-7a "The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."

- D. Part of His immense compassion and kindness is shown in His forgiveness. If God is **"slow to anger"** even when we give Him ample reason to be angry with us because of our sin, then He must be very merciful and forgiving so as not to destroy us. **The reason God is slow to anger is not because He is unaware of our sin but because He forgives it when we repent and because of the work Christ accomplished on the cross he treats us as righteous before Him. (2 Cor. 5:21).**
- E. **He doesn't just forgive some kinds of sin.** Those who believe that there is a kind of sin that surpasses God's forgiveness must submit their own opinion and feelings to the Word of God. The reason God used the three Hebrew words for **"sin"** here (iniquity, transgression, and sin) is to show that all kinds and degrees of sin are forgivable. **There is no kind of unforgivable sin. The**

only sin that is unforgivable is the sin we do not repent of. If you can repent and turn from your sin, you can be forgiven.

- F. In preaching this message I join the sentiment of John Piper when he said: *"I know that, every Sunday, I am faced with people of two kinds... One who thinks he has gone too far to be forgiven. The other thinks that forgiveness is instantaneous. The first believes that he/she is absolutely unqualified for the kingdom. The second is too sure of her forgiveness. The first believes that God is inflexibly wrathful. The second thinks that God is easy to convince. One is blind to the magnificence of God's mercy. The other is blind to the magnitude of his own misery..."*
- G. What we are talking about is addressed to the broken, the hopeless, the discouraged, that is, to those who perhaps feel that they are far from the reach of divine forgiveness.

III. HAVING A PROPER VIEW OF GOD'S DEALINGS WITH MAN

- A. A fundamental element to understand and live in the goodness of God is to recognize that He has not treated us as we deserve.

Lam. 3:22-23 "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"

- B. If it were not for God's mercy, we would have already received the punishment we deserve and we would be in the place of eternal damnation, however His goodness is what sustains us every day.

Matt. 5:45b "...your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

- C. This reality is so overwhelming that we must allow it to shape our lives because there are those who have gone through worse things and see God as good and those who have gone through much less severe things and complain about God. A good example of someone who recognized the goodness of God in the midst of great suffering is Job; After receiving the news of the sudden loss of not only all his property but also his children due to various injustices and catastrophes, he responds well.

Job. 1:21-22 "And he [Job] said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

- D. When we understand a little how much we receive from the hand of God, sometimes our response can be difficult to express but appropriate to the type of treatment we receive from God, when we do not react aware of the goodness of God we seem like a spoiled child who seems that he has never been given enough.
- E. The one who has accused God from the beginning is the devil and he influences the world with his lie.

Gen 3:1-5 "ow the serpent was more crafty than any other beast... He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You[a] shall not eat of any tree in the

garden'?... 4 *You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.*
5 *"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God..."*

IV. OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOODNESS OF GOD

- A. The concept we have of the goodness of God is decisive for how we interpret and respond to what happens and even the faith we demonstrate.
1. The measure of mercy and grace we receive in our lives is determined in large part by the expectation we have of what God will or will not do.
Psal. 33:22 *"May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you."*
 2. The kind of faithfulness and diligence we show God in the task He has assigned us is determined by how we see God as good or cruel. In fact, much of what we do or fail to do reveals the concept we have of Him.
Matt. 25:24-26a *"He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant!..."*
 3. The way we treat and even forgive others is influenced by how we see God. When we are truly aware of the goodness we have received from God, it is expressed in our willingness to wholeheartedly forgive offenses.
Matt. 18:33 *"And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?"*

V. OUR EXPECTATION AND TRUST

Psal. 23:6 *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

- A. When we say *"Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life"* we are affirming that He is with us all the time. His goodness and mercy are His character manifested to us in Christ so you can receive that goodness every day.
- B. This should be our daily expectation, in the midst of the difficulties we face every day. If we do not live under this reality and mercy we can become exhausted. **Guilt will never be the best motivation to live a life according to God's will because it tires us, instead the goodness of God vivifies and sustains us.**

Psal. 27:13 *"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living."*

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The world tends to blame God for all its misfortunes and accuse Him of being unjust, but if we look at our lives today and cannot see God's mercy, it is because our definition of good is not necessarily His. We must renew

our minds to prove that his will is good, acceptable, and perfect (Rom. 12:2).

- B. Sometimes the things that happen to us, when we process them from a purely human point of view, may seem to us that they are not good but the least that He gives us in Christ is His justice, He normally treats us with mercy but also extends His grace to take us beyond our limitations.

Jer. 9:24a "But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness..."

- C. We must repent if we have come to think that He has not been good to us and repent of all our complaints. As a man knows more of the goodness of God he will be able to receive the times of refreshing that He promises will come from His presence..

VII. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- A. Share in your Friendship Group three examples of how you experience God's goodness in your daily life.
- B. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you eyes to see it and faith to believe that He is good to you. Be grateful for God's goodness.
- C. Receive by faith and in gratitude the time of renewal that God sends you.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next in-person meeting of the Market Place group will be on Saturday, January 20 at 8:00 a.m. If you are coming for the first time, we invite you to register by scanning the QR code that is on the screens.
2. The House of Prayer has been moved to the main sanctuary and will be open Monday through Friday from 6:00 to 10 a.m. and from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. (It will only be closed on Tuesdays until April)
 1. The School of Discipleship begins courses next Monday, January 22:
 2. First Level: There will be in Spanish and English separately.
 3. Second Level: Spanish and English together.
 4. Third Level: bilingual
 5. The Affirming Your Steps course in Spanish and English also starts this Monday, January 22, you can sign up online or at the table outside.
3. On Sunday, January 28, we started our service completely in English at 5:00 p.m. We thank everyone who has signed up to serve but we still need someone to serve in the parking lot. If you would like to support us, go to the information center.
4. Women's Retreat: February 9 and 10. Please register at the bookstore or at housesoflight.org