



GOODNESS



SURRENDER  
ministries

P.O. Box 5306, Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
[www.surrenderministries.org](http://www.surrenderministries.org)

# Goodness

(a gift from the Holy Spirit - Galatians 5:22)

To not be intrigued with sin or this world  
but to be focused on heaven  
heavenly support  
and  
heavenly things.

## **TO NOT BE INTRIGUED WITH SIN**

An example:

It is sometimes necessary to bring up / discuss / study / contemplate certain issues like apostasy and error but we should never be intrigued with these issues to the point that these issues become our focus (consider a 5% to 95% ratio). Since God is in control, these topics should be taken calmly and rationally. "God will arouse his people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat." *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5 p.707.*

If I am bringing up a negative subject (e.g. apostasy, error), I should ask myself the following questions:

- Why am I bringing up this subject?
- Is it necessary and beneficial for me to bring up this subject?
- Will it be of true benefit to those I am sharing this information with?

When we get too worked up emotionally about negative issues, (apostasy, error), we encourage their discussion on a continual basis. On the other hand, we should never dismiss these negative issues as unimportant or treat them lightly, but we should always handle them in a way that will not "feed" the continuance of discussing these negative issues for the sake of excitement, approval, or pride.

We should become excited and intrigued with heavenly things, heavenly support and heavenly blessings.

"Let the soul in living faith fasten upon God. Let the tongue speak His praise. When you associate together, let the mind be reverently turned to the contemplation of eternal realities. Thus you will be helping one another to be spiritually minded. When your will is in harmony

with the divine will, you will be in harmony with one another; you will have Christ by your side as a counselor." *Gospel Workers p.417*

"The language of the soul should be that of joy and gratitude. If we have dark chapters in our experience, let us not keep their memory fresh by repetition. Forgetting the things that are behind, let us press forward to the things that are before. Cultivate only those thoughts and feelings which produce gratitude and praise. If you have been wronged, forget it, and think only of the great mercy, the loving-kindness, the inexpressible love of Jesus." *Signs of the Times, September 27, 1883.*

## **TO NOT BE INTRIGUED WITH THE WORLD**

"God desires us to choose the heavenly in place of the earthly. He opens before us the possibilities of a heavenly investment. He would give encouragement to our loftiest aims, security to our choicest treasure. He declares, 'I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.' Isaiah 13:12. When the riches that moth devours and rust corrupts shall be swept away, Christ's followers can rejoice in their heavenly treasure, the riches that are imperishable.

Better than all the friendship of the world is the friendship of Christ's redeemed. Better than a title to the noblest palace on earth is a title to the mansions our Lord has gone to prepare. And better than all the words of earthly praise will be the Saviour's words to His faithful servants, 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matthew 25:34.'" *Christ's Object Lessons p.374*

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." *Luke 12:34*

"Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." *Colossians 3:2*

". . . for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." *II Corinthians 4:18*

## **TO BE FOCUSED ON HEAVENLY SUPPORT**

An example:

What we have learned previously through God's help does not mean we are ready (by ourselves) to effectively tackle the trials and temptations that are on the horizon. We need to be in tune with the peace that we have while walking with God and the lack of fear we enjoy. When we are confronted with a potential reduction of peace and/or with fear we need to then realize that we need to speak with God before we proceed and before we fall. Instantly pray for

help, instantly ask for scriptural guidance and then surrender your words, thoughts, and actions to God. With practice this will become your typical response to the surprise trials and temptations that are before you. You will then be acquiring a Christlike character in a manner that is less devastating to God and to you.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"  
*James 1:19*

"We have the companionship of the divine presence, and as we realize this presence, our thoughts are brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. Our spiritual exercises are in accordance with the vividness of our sense of this companionship. Enoch walked with God in this way; and Christ is dwelling in our hearts by faith when we will consider what He is to us, and what a work He has wrought out for us in the plan of redemption." *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p.388*

"Enoch walked with God. So may every laborer for Christ. You may say with the psalmist, 'I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.' (Psalms 16:8). While you feel that you have no sufficiency of yourself, your sufficiency will be in Jesus. If you expect all your counsel and wisdom to come from men, mortal and finite like yourselves, you will receive only human help. If you go to God for help and wisdom, He will never disappoint your faith." *Gospel Workers p.417,418*

"Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. . . . The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watch care; not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son." *Steps to Christ p.100*

## **TO BE FOCUSED ON HEAVENLY THINGS**

"The Lord wants human beings to take time to rest, time to think of and appreciate heavenly things. Those who do not value the things of heaven sufficiently to give time to them will at last lose all." *SDA Bible Commentary Volume 7A p.154*

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." *John 14:1-3*

## **Some glimpses of our arrival in heaven**

"The plan of redemption is not merely a way of escape from the penalty of transgression, but through it the sinner is forgiven his sins, and will be finally received into heaven -- not as a forgiven culprit pardoned and released from captivity, yet looked upon with suspicion and not admitted to friendship and trust; but welcomed as a child, and taken back into fullest confidence." *SDA Bible Commentary Volume 7A p.950*

"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren," *Hebrews 2:11*

"As the ransomed ones are welcomed to the City of God, there rings out upon the air an exultant cry of adoration. The two Adams are about to meet. The Son of God is standing with outstretched arms to receive the father of our race -- the being whom He created, who sinned against his Maker, and for whose sin the marks of the crucifixion are borne upon the Saviour's form. As Adam discerns the prints of the cruel nails, he does not fall upon the bosom of his Lord, but in humiliation casts himself at His feet, crying: 'Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!' Tenderly the Saviour lifts him up and bids him look once more upon the Eden home from which he has so long been exiled...

He [Adam] looks about him and beholds a multitude of his family redeemed, standing in the Paradise of God. Then he casts his glittering crown at the feet of Jesus and, falling upon His breast, embraces the Redeemer. He touches the golden harp, and the vaults of heaven echo the triumphant song: 'Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again!' The family of Adam take up the strain and cast their crowns at the Saviour's feet as they bow before Him in adoration." *The Great Controversy p.647,648*

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple." *Psalms 27:4*

"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." *Hebrews 11:16*

"In the midst of a world by its iniquity doomed to destruction, Enoch lived a life of such close communion with God that he was not permitted to fall under the power of death. The godly character of this prophet represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be 'redeemed from the earth' (Revelation 14:3) at the time of Christ's second advent. Then, as in the world before the Flood, iniquity will prevail. Following the promptings of their corrupt hearts and the teachings of a deceptive philosophy, men will rebel against the authority of Heaven. But like Enoch, they will warn the world of the Lord's second coming and of the judgments to be visited upon transgression, and by their holy conversation and example they will condemn the sins of the ungodly. As Enoch was translated to heaven before the destruction of the world by water, so the living righteous will be translated from the earth before its destruction by fire." *Patriarchs and Prophets p.88,89*

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." *Luke 21:28*

"The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath. *Proverbs 15:24*

"We can have what Enoch had. We can have Christ as our constant companion. Enoch walked with God, and when assailed by the tempter, he could talk with God about it. He had no 'It is Written' as we have, but he had a knowledge of his heavenly Companion. He made God his Counsellor, and was closely bound up with Jesus." *SDA Bible Commentary Volume 7A p.19*

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"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
for ever."  
*Psalms 23:6*

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# The Roadmap

"The very trials that test our faith most severely, and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are designed to lead us more closely to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at his feet, and experience the peace he will give us in exchange."  
 Testimonies to the Church, Volume 4 p.220

