

Enjoying God's Goodness

Sermon Title: **Enjoying God's Goodness**

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C. Elijah Bronner: God's goodness is so vast it could never be exhausted.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is the message titled "Enjoying God's Goodness" by C. Elijah Bronner. This message is number 7682. That's 7682. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:18 - 00:00:47)

Female: And now for 7682, "Enjoying God's Goodness."

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com. Stay tuned to today's message. Always a wonderful joy and delight to have you tune in and join us.

I would like to share just a little humor. An 87-year-old man went to his doctor to get a physical and he didn't look so well. And so, several weeks later, the doctor saw this elderly gentleman downtown with a gorgeous beautiful young lady on his arm and the old man was looking great. And the doctor said, "You look great! What happened?" And the old man replied, he said, "I just did what you told me to do." He said, "You said get a hot mama and be cheerful." The doctor said, "That's not what I told you. I told you that you have a heart murmur and be careful."

Well, open your Bible if you will over to the book of Psalms, book of Psalms chapter 107. Psalms 107. And we will look at some selective verses here. Psalms 107. Let's begin with verse 8. We read verse 8, verse 9 and verse 15. Psalms 107 verse 8, verse 9 and verse 15. When you get there say, "Amen" and let's read together in unison. Ready? Read. Verse 8, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Verse 9, "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." And verse 15, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" And I just want to use as a subject, "Enjoying God's Goodness."

You'll also notice in verse 1. In verse 1 he says the same thing, "Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good". Also, in verse 21 he

says it again, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" And also verse 31, you see it again, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" So, we're talking about enjoying God's goodness. Goodness is defined as to bestow a benefit, something done in one's favor, something beneficial, something favorable, is kindness in action, expressing itself in deed, it's God's beneficence toward man, something that gives you delight, something that makes you happy, is generosity, it's a gift from the heart. Goodness is good in every sense of the word.

And so, we're talking about enjoying the goodness of God. I have a friend and every time I ask him how he is; he always responds by saying, "I'm better than I deserve." And I believe that that's an acknowledgment of God's goodness. How many of you know that God has been better to you than you deserve? Well, that's God's goodness that we enjoy.

There were two boys and these little boys were always getting in trouble, just mischievous boys, and this elderly woman called the men to her home. She sat them at the table and she fix them warm cookies and milk. And the two boys were just enjoying the warm cookies and milk and one looked at the other and he said, "I can't believe she's being this good to us as bad as we have been."

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The other boy looked back and said, "She's not being good to us because we're good. She's being good to us because she's good."

And so, that's the way God is with us. God is so good to us, not necessarily because of our goodness. He's good to us because He's so good. Goodness oozes out of God. God can't control where His goodness goes. It flows out of Him. Goodness radiates from God the way He radiates from the son. Every day these rays of goodness are reaching out to us, each and every day. Psalms 84:11 says that "God is a sun and a shield. He gives grace and glory and He withholds no good thing from them who walk uprightly." And so, goodness radiates from God the way that He radiates from the sun.

There was a woman, she was actually coming out of a card shop. She was holding her little girl by the hand and she was reading

her card and she was so engrossed reading the card and she never looked up and she was just walking along, reading the card and two men were seated at an outdoor restaurant and they spotted the woman and when they saw her walking, they saw that she was walking directly toward the street. She wasn't paying attention because she was so engrossed in her card. And the city bus was coming down the street full speed and the two men saw the bus and they saw the woman walking, not paying attention, unaware and they knew that she was going to walk right into the path of that oncoming bus.

And one of the men started to stand and yell out to the woman to try to get her attention but just as he stood a gentle breeze blew the card out of the woman's hand and she spun around to pick up the card and as she did so, the bus zoomed by, missing the woman. The woman picked up the card, never knew what had almost happen. How much of God's goodness takes place every day and we don't even realize? We don't even realize how good God has been to us. And those men they were puzzled because they said there was no breeze that day. Wind wasn't even blowing that day, but yet it was just -- the goodness of God. The goodness of God just blew on the thing.

We would be amazed if only the curtain was pulled back and we could see how much goodness God gives us every day. All the accidents, he prevents us from all of the sicknesses, he heals us from and all of the provisions he makes for us. He forgives us. Just abundant supply.

Psalms 31 describes the goodness of God, verse 19. Psalms 31:19, it says, "Oh how great is thy goodness," that word great there is how inexhaustible, how vast, how large. It is so vast, there's so much of it. Oh, how great the treasures of it. God's goodness is so vast it can never be exhausted. God can be good to you, but He diminishes His goodness. His supply is still the same. It is an inexhaustible supply. He can be good to you and He can be good to me and His supply hasn't dwindled at all. His supply is inexhaustible, is never lessened, never diminished. His goodness is just as vast as it has always been. The Bible says that God has laid up goodness. He's laid up goodness for us that He hasn't even released to you yet but He has it laid up. Turn to your neighbor and say, "Something good is coming your way." Praise God.

I remember reading a story about C.H. Spurgeon and he recalled an account of a wealthy man who had given a Mr. Rowland Hill a large amount of money to give to a poor minister. But Mr. Rowland when he received this large sum of money, he was thinking that this is too much to give him at one time.

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And so, what he did, he would put a little cash in a card and in an envelope and he would send it and he would attach a note to it saying, "More to come. More to come, more to follow." And he would put that little note and send it to the men.

And so, each week, this minister would get this card with this cash. There'll be a little note that says, "More to follow." And you know, that's the way God does us? God is giving us so many good things, but there's always a note attached that says, "More to follow." God forgave us of our sins but He didn't stop there. He attached the note and said, "More to follow." God healed us from all our diseases and He attached a note that says, "More to follow." God gave us His righteousness but He attached a note and said, "More to follow." God gave us the Holy Spirit but He attached the note that said, "More to follow." God gave us His peace. He attached a note that said, "More to follow." God gave us His joy.

And so, God, He always attaches a note. And so, when God blesses you, He blesses you with a promotion, that's not the end. He attaches a note said, "There's more to follow." God blesses you with a spouse. A good spouse. He attaches a note that says, "More to follow." Some of you all want to give that gift back. But whenever He blesses us with His goodness, there's always more to follow. It's always more to follow. And you should keep a list. Write down a list of God's goodness coming into your life. Write it down and by each item, write the words, "More to follow."

I've been compiling a list now for some time. And I just check my list and I had about 50 items on there. Now, I'm not talking about regular goodness. I mean, there's regular goodness we receive every day, the ability to be able to breathe and the ability to be able to see and walk and eat and enjoy life. I'm talking about things that are extraordinary. Things where it's a touch of God. That's a special touch for God winks at you. Where God winks at you to let you know that it was Him who did that. And I've

written about 50 special events or occasions. And by each of these, I have more to follow. So, I'm not stopping at 50. I wrote, "More to follow." So, write them down and write "More. More to follow."

It does three things when you do this. When you do this, it gives you a greater appreciation for God's provision. It also confirms His constant flow of goodness in your life. You don't know how good God has been to you until you look back over some of your life and you see the hand of God that's been so good to you. Things we forgotten about. And then the third thing it does -- it causes your expectancy to increase because when you see how He's been to you in the past, now, it gives you expectancy to expect more of that goodness in the future. Turn to your neighbor and say, "There's more to follow."

Now, the reason I wanted to share this message this morning is because I was having unusual encounters with God's goodness this week. And it was so good and I said, "Lord, I got to preach about this. This is just too good." God was just running me over with His goodness. He was running me over with His goodness Lord and I said, "I got to just preach about your goodness because this is too good."

I was experiencing one thing after another. It was just an onslaught of God's goodness. And it overwhelmed me to one point. It was so good at one point, I almost cried. I said, "God, this is overwhelming me. I can't take it. You're overtaking me with your goodness." And I'm not a crier, but God was so good I almost cried. I mean, I was looking for the clinics, tears were well enough.

I can't believe how good God has been to me and I begin to understand what Deuteronomy 28 says when it says, "All these blessings will come on you and overtake you." It overtakes you. It overwhelms you. And so, I was just experiencing the goodness of God. It was one thing after another.

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I was taking my kids to Florida. We were taking my oldest daughter to check her in for grad school and I had my other daughter with me and so we decided, since we're going to Florida, we will go to the beach for a couple of days while we were there

and it was raining all the way down. This was a five-hour drive and it was raining.

And so, I said to myself, "Well, today's going to be a shot because it's raining so there's nothing, we can do on the beach today." So, I said, "Let me look at the calendar. It says we're going to be there two days." I said, "Let me look on my phone, let me see what the weather's going to be tomorrow. Because I'm hoping that maybe we'll have sun forecast for tomorrow." So, I looked on my phone for the forecast for tomorrow and it was thunderstorm, showers. And it was just dark clouds. And I said, "Oh my goodness. Our trip is ruined. My plan is out the window."

And then, as I thought about it, I said, "Wait a minute." I said, "Joshua prayed and he made the sun stand still." I said, "Joshua prayed and the sun stood still." And then I said, "Elijah prayed." My name is Elijah. I said, "Elijah pray and it didn't rain for three and a half years." And I thought about it. I said, "I don't need it not to rain for three and a half years. I only need two days."

And so, I prayed out loud, with my daughters were in the car. I just said, "Father, we're taking my daughter to school as you know and I have my other daughter. She hasn't been to the beach all year and we want to enjoy the sun. We want to enjoy the beach. We want to have a good time." And I said, "Lord, all of this rain -- this forecast, it is raining now." It has been raining for the past five hours as we were driving there. I said, "Lord, it's raining now. It's scheduled for rain tomorrow, but I'm asking you to hold back the rain for a couple of days." And I said, "Lord, this is what I need. I need it to stop raining so by the time we get to the hotel; it will be sunny so we can run out and enjoy at least a half of day today and all day tomorrow."

And that was my prayer. And when we got to the hotel, guess what? The sun was out. All the sun was out. The sun was out and I got my suntan lotion and I got my swimming trunks and man; I went to the beach and I rejoiced. But then I stopped. I said, "Wait a minute." And I grabbed my two girls. I said, "You remember what dad prayed? Dad prayed for the rain to stop. Dad prayed for the sun to come out so we can enjoy the beach. God has answered my prayer. That's His goodness."

And when that goodness hit me, I said, "Oh my goodness. Lord, that's your goodness. You heard my prayer. You wanted us to

enjoy the beach and enjoy this time.” Then I prayed that’s the goodness. So, I just praised God for His goodness. I praise God for His goodness and I just thanked Him and praised Him for His goodness.

Now, sometimes, when we pray, we forget when God answers our prayers. Sometimes, we forget about God. There was a businessman and he was downtown where he was late for a meeting. He was trying to find a parking spot. He couldn’t find one. And so, he drove frantically around the block looking for a spot and he was so nervous. He was so desperate that he resorted to praying. He looked up and he said, “Lord, if you find me a spot, I’ll tell you what, I’ll be in church every Sunday and I’ll stop drinking.” And sure enough, a spot opened up and he said, “Never mind, Lord, I found one.”

So, sometimes, when God blesses us, sometimes, when God’s goodness shows up in our lives, sometimes when the answer to our prayer comes, sometimes we forget. We forget God. But here’s what I notice that as each of these accounts of God’s goodness start happening, I notice that one thing started happening right behind another. And I don’t have time to tell you all of the other things that happen, but it was just one miraculous miracle after another. And I thought about it, I said, “What has been my attitude?” And these are the three things I came up with.

I was joyful, I was prayerful, and I was thankful. Turn to your neighbor and say, “Be joyful, be prayerful, be thankful.” That’s a little inside tip that we get from 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5, “Be joyful, be prayerful and be thankful.”

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So, I was just exceedingly joyful, exceedingly prayerful and exceedingly thankful and I noticed that all of these occasions of goodness just begin happening for me on that trip, and each time I would recognize it, each time I would stop and acknowledge God and praise God, and I would talk to my kids about it and I would reinforce, “Wow, look what God did here.” And I was just celebrating with them and just sharing with them. I just kept talking about it, just kept rejoicing, kept thanking God.

Now you’re going to know how excited I was. I was on the beach singing. That’s how excited I am. I didn’t care. I looked that

because I said, “I don’t care who sees me. I’m going to rejoice. I’m going to sing.” And I got my praise music on and I was singing the Lord song. I was singing the Lord song because of that goodness. That goodness was coming up, but I found it pretty good actually. I think I saw one lady look over at me.

But I begin to notice God’s goodness and I begin to notice that I was always praising God. I’m always thanking Him whenever the new occurrence would take place and this is what I noticed. There were three categories of things that were happening. Number one -- I’m just giving you this generally. These are three ways God’s goodness shows up in our life.

Number one, things I’ve prayed for. I saw God just miraculously answering my prayer. Folks, I have a bulletin, “God answers prayer.” Never stop praying. God answers prayer. Your prayer is precious to Him. Your prayer is precious. The Bible says that the prayer of the upright is His delight. Your prayer is precious. God answers prayer. So, number one, I notice the things I prayed for.

And then, number two, I noticed there were things happening that I didn’t pray for but they were my heart’s desire. So, He was giving me the desires of my heart without me even asking for them. And I saw those things popping up and it was so miraculous and I was just bursting into praise. He was just overwhelming me with goodness.

And then the third thing, the third category is unexpected blessings. These were not in my heart. These were just simply surprises. God loves to surprise us with His goodness. He loves to surprise us with His goodness. So, these were unexpected blessing. And so, I saw those three categories of God’s goodness, answers to prayer, your heart’s desire, and then just unexpected blessings, just surprises. God loves to surprise us. He loves to surprise us. We love to surprise other people. We love to give people a surprise birthday party and a surprise gift. Where do you think we got that from? We got that from God. He’s the originator of that.

Man, look, this would go all the way back to the beginning. He put out on Adam asleep and when Adam woke up, God said, “Hey Adam. I got a surprise for you. I got a surprise.” God loves to surprise His people. God loves to surprise His people with his

goodness. Oh, He loves to surprise His people. He loves to surprise His people with His goodness. Surprises. So, I want you to begin to look for those three things. Look for answers to prayer, look for your heart's desires and look for surprises.

In fact, when I got home, my wife just handed me a letter. It was a letter from a cruise line. And the letter said, "You took a cruise with us in 2009." And this letter is dated just a few days ago. The letter said, "You took a cruise with us in 2009. For some reason, you have a credit with us and we need to know where to send your check." And they said, "If you don't claim it, we have to send it to the state." I said, "Don't worry about that I will." I said, "No, it is not going to the state. I will be claiming my check." Dated 2009. They said, "You cruised with us in 2009. We owe you a credit. We got a check for you and if you don't want it, we'll send it to the state." Folks, I have another bulletin. It won't be going to the state.

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But that was a surprise -- God's goodness. He's hit me with another surprise. These are surprises. Everybody say, "Surprise!" And so, God will answer your prayer. God will give you the desires of your heart and God will surprise you.

Let me share this quickly. The Holy Spirit brought this to my attention. I studied Psalms 107 for years but I had never paid this any attention. And the Holy Spirit brought it to my attention. He says, "You notice that I repeat the same thing five times there in Psalms 107? The Lord is good. Praise the Lord for his goodness, for his wonderful works to the children of men." He quotes it five times in Psalms 107. Five times. Whenever something is repeated in scripture, it's repeated for emphasis, to show its importance, to show its value. He didn't repeat it twice. Twice would have been good. That would have been letting us know that it was important. He repeated it five times as if He was flashing a message. It's like He was giving us a clue. And He flashed it five times and it finally hit me. I said, "Duh, I see it. I see it." Turn to your neighbor and say, "He sees it." I said, "Duh, I see it, Lord. I see it. I finally get it."

Let's look at what it says. Psalms 107. Look at verse 8. Psalms 107 verse 8, notice what it says, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children

of men!" He flashed it five times to give us a signal to say, "Hey, don't miss this. Check this out. This is a clue. This is a key. This is major." And then I saw it. I said, "Lord. I see it." Here's what the Holy Spirit taught me. The more you become aware of God's goodness and praise Him for it, the more his goodness will show up in your life. I saw it clearly. I said. "I see it Lord. I see it." The more you'll be aware, the more you'll acknowledge Him. The more you'll praise Him. More of His goodness will show up in your life.

And I saw it clearly. I had never seen it. I had never seen that. And I've studied that for years and I finally saw it. It's like He was flashing a subtle cue, a secret, a key. He's almost saying, whoever's spiritual, they will pick it up and we'll put it in here five times so they can't miss it. And He put it in there five times. Praise God for his goodness, praise Him for His goodness and His wonderful works. Because the more you praise Him -- if you'll be aware of His goodness, and praise Him for it, the more of his goodness He'll usher in your life.

Praise God. Man, I was so thankful. I said, "Thank you, Holy Ghost, for being patient with us." Oh man, I said, "Duh, I should have seen that years ago." How did I miss that? He was trying to tell us. He said, "I know they won't miss it if I put it in five times." Five is a number of grace. I'll sprinkle my grace all over this chapter, they won't miss it. And the Holy Spirit pointed that out to me. I said, "I see it, Lord." The more we are aware of His goodness and acknowledge Him, the more of His goodness He will allow to flow in your life.

And that was the one thing I kept doing. I kept praising Him for His goodness and every time I kept praising Him, something else would happen. It's like the praise continues the flow of the goodness -- if that makes any sense to you. Praise continues the flow of His goodness in our lives. Praise God.

I brought a song. I want to play it this time and I want us to stand up. This song just came out. Somebody sent it to me and then I heard my daughters playing it. And I said, "Wow." If you all could roll that and stand up and I want you to praise just for a few moments. What you're going to be doing - you're going to be praising Him for His goodness. You're going to be praising Him for His goodness.

00:30:00

(Music Playing: 00:30:00 - 00:37:56)

C. Elijah Bronner: Amen. You have a good Father. You have a good Father and He loves you so much. He loves you so much. It's His delight. It's His pleasure. It's His great joy to do good for his kids. That's who He is. He said in Jeremiah 32:40, "I will never stop doing you good." That's a covenant. "I will never stop doing you good." Look for God's goodness. Expect God's goodness. Confess God's goodness. Praise Him whenever goodness shows up in your life, acknowledge Him, praise Him for it, and allow the flow of God's goodness to continue to flow in your life. Praise God. Amen.

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