



GOODNESS

Psalm 85:12

The LORD will indeed
give what is good, and
our land will yield its
harvest.



IPC **HEBRON** LOS ANGELES
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From Pastor's Desk...

God's Intervention for Restoration, Revival and Renewal in 2021

The present generation raises questions, has God forgotten us or is He slow to act in history? The impatience of people results in pride and rebellion. Though Korah was swallowed by earth as a divine punishment, his descendants, tribe of Levites were appointed to serve the temple worship. Sons of Korah were responsible to cry out for God's intervention with expectation (Ps.85).

Israel had a long history of backsliding. When they rebelled, God punished them by sending invading enemies, famine, and pestilence. This time, the nation might have been experiencing a famine (v.12).

- God's intervention for restoration: Sons of Korah prayed for restoration (v.4). Bible records a picture of the religious, moral,

and civil corruption in Israel. The book of judges describe that God raised twelve judges for delivering the people who were oppressed by others. Israel was restored on several occasions in history. When God restores, He brings people to repentance, He forgives their sins, and then He terminates the punishment that resulted from His indignation.

- God's intervention for revival. The Psalmist prayed unto God for a revival, "will you not revive us again" (v.6). Spiritual declension results in losing the joy in heart. The demonstration of God's unfailing love would revive the nation, church, family, and in personal life. True revival is always initiated by God's Spirit, not by human effort.

- God's intervention for Renewal. "The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our Land will yield its fruit" (v.12). The Lord withholds no good thing from those who walk uprightly (84:11). The more we first seek God's righteousness and His kingdom, the more we

will be taken care of by God (Matt. 6:25-33). The sudden disappearance of manna reminded the people of Israel that it was a gift from God. There was no longer any manna for them, but the Promised Land was ready for planting and harvesting (Joshua 5:10-12).

Our restoration, revival, and renewal are the acts of God. God's visitation and personal touch would turn around the situation. It was happened in the incarnation of Jesus, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14) resulted in spiritual harvest. Festival of Pentecost had an agricultural significance, but the day of Pentecost resulted in a great spiritual harvest all over the world (Acts of the Apostles). Let us welcome 2021 expecting great things from God. We shall overcome COVID-19!!!

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God's Goodness in Abundance

Br: Biju Yohannan

In his book, *As a Tree Grows*, W. Phillip Keller, cites several passages from Scripture where God compares His people to trees. Trees need darkness, said Keller. Darkness provides respite from the oppressive heat of the day. "Darkness brings dew and refreshment to the foliage of the tree. In mountainous country like Lebanon, where the forests lie close to the sea, nighttime brings its banks of cloud and mist and fog that enshroud the trees in refreshing coolness, saturating the cedars with mineral-laden moisture from the ocean deeps."

It appears that with every passing year, our challenges & uncertainties become bigger and the darkness around us becomes heavier.

But the Bible promises us that “The Lord will indeed give what is good”. During these seasons of darkness, God works in our hearts and He uses these trial periods to refine our character, making us more like Him. God makes the sun to rise on time, replacing our fears with joy. With God in us, we need not fear the darkness because he causes all things to work together for good (Rom 8:28)

Harvest is God’s blessings to an overburdened and needy farmer. It’s a time to recognize God’s special token of care for all mankind. The psalmist in Ps 85:12 makes a faith declaration that our land will yield its harvest. Indeed, God’s blessings, both spiritual and physical blessings, are on us. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Eph 1:3), He will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory (Phil 4:19). Let’s continue to have our faith in God, just like the faith-warriors (Heb 11)

A nearsighted person can see things clearly that are close to them but not things that are far away. The opposite is true for someone who is farsighted - having the ability to focus on things that are far away, or in the future. As Christians, we are called to focus on both—the present and the future. We have a Blessed Hope in Christ (Titus 2:13) and let's lean on Him for all our needs. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8) and He is our provider - Jehovah Jireh (Gen 22:14)

May God richly bless us this year!

Goodness of God
Sis: Saly Varughese

Goodness of God is one of the attributes of God as well as description of his very

essence. As Ps.34:8 says, God by nature is inherently good. All goodness comes from God and is the foundation of all goodness and everything good. This goodness is evident in nature like the air we breathe, water we drink, earth we live, crops we use to satisfy our hunger, the cool breeze, heat, light and the beauty.

The core of our Christian faith is also the goodness of God. The highest degree of God's goodness was exhibited on the cross of Calvary. The purpose of God's goodness is to ultimately draw us to him and it was made possible by salvation through his son Jesus Christ. God's goodness serves as the perfect model of how we should be. We have been given the opportunity to accept Christ as our savior and now our duty is to show this goodness of God to others every day and bring them to Christ. Due to our limitations, most of the time we are unable to accomplish

the good work and desires to help others. In psalms 119: 68 it says, we can look to God as the perfect role model to teach us about the goodness of God and to do good things.

The goodness of God is available regardless of our status in life and even if we're not worthy of it. In scripture it says "he causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good" and "the Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made." However, we should remember that good things may not always show up as happy experiences. Sometimes good can come in the form of hardship but God can use it for our good.

In Rom 8: 28, "in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose." The goodness of God endures continually and his character does not change. So church, we can confidently trust in the unchanging goodness

of God and he will lead us according to his perfect plan.
