

~GOODNESS (298)

[Hebrew, *tohv*, and the Greek, *a-ga-thos*]

- Yehowah's Goodness
- A Fruit Of The Spirit
- Goodness Bestows Benefits
- A Related Term

· The **quality or state of being good, moral excellence, virtue.** Goodness is solid through and through, with no badness or rottenness. It is a positive quality and expresses itself in the performance of good and beneficial acts toward others.

· The most common words for good in the Bible are the **Hebrew *tohv***, and the **Greek, *a-ga-thos'*, *a-ga-thos'***, is usually used in a moral or religious sense.

· Yehowah's Goodness

· Yehowah God is good in the absolute and consummate sense. The Scriptures say;

· Good and upright is Yehowah. That is why he instructs sinners in the way. (**Psalms 25:8**)

· And they exclaim; O how great his **goodness** is!

· For O how great his **goodness** is, and how great his handsomeness is! Grain is what will make the young men thrive, and new wine the virgins. (**Zechariah 9:17**)

· Jesus Christ, though he had this quality of moral excellence, would not accept Good as a title, saying;

· And as he was going out on his way, a certain man ran up and fell upon his knees before him and put the question to him; Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life? (**Mark 10:17**)

· Jesus said to him; Why do you call me good? Nobody is good, except one, God. (**Mark 10:18**)

· He thus recognized Yehowah as the ultimate standard of what is good.

- When Moses asked to see His glory, Yehowah replied; I myself shall cause all my **goodness** to pass before your face, and I will declare the name of Yehowah before you. Yehowah screened Moses from looking upon his face, but as he passed by, evidently by means of his angelic representative.
- You who received the Law as transmitted by angels but have not kept it. ([Acts of Apostles 7:53](#))
- He declared to Moses; Yehowah, Yehowah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and truth, preserving loving-kindness for thousands, pardoning error and transgression and sin, but by no means will he give exemption from punishment.
- At this he said; Cause me to see, please, your glory. ([Exodus 33:18](#))
- But he said; I myself shall cause all my **goodness** to pass before your face, and I will declare the name of Yehowah before you, and I will favor the one whom I may favor, and I will show mercy to the one to whom I may show mercy. ([Exodus 33:19](#))
- And it has to occur that while my glory is passing by I must place you in a hole in the rock, and I must put my palm over you as a screen until I have passed by. ([Exodus 33:22](#))
- And Yehowah went passing by before his face and declaring; Yehowah, Yehowah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and truth. ([Exodus 34:6](#))
- Preserving loving-kindness for thousands, pardoning error and transgression and sin, but by no means will he give exemption from punishment, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons and upon grandsons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation. ([Exodus 34:7](#))
- Here **goodness** is seen to be a quality that involves mercy, loving-kindness, and truth but does not condone or cooperate in any way with badness. On this basis David could pray to Yehowah to forgive his sins for the sake of Yehowah's goodness.
- The sins of my youth and my revolts O do not remember.

According to your loving-kindness do you yourself remember me, for the sake of your **goodness**, O Yehowah. (**Psalms 25:7**)

- Yehowah's **goodness**, as well as his love, was involved in the giving of his Son as a sacrifice for sins. By this he provided a means for helping those who would want that which is truly good, and at the same time he condemned badness and laid the basis for fully satisfying justice and righteousness.
- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (**Romans 3:23**)
- And it is as a free gift that they are being declared righteous by his undeserved kindness through the release by the ransom paid by Christ Jesus. (**Romans 3:24**)
- God set him forth as an offering for propitiation through faith in his blood. This was in order to exhibit his own righteousness, because he was forgiving the sins that occurred in the past while God was exercising forbearance. (**Romans 3:25**)
- So as to exhibit his own righteousness in this present season, that he might be righteous even when declaring righteous the man that has faith in Jesus. (**Romans 3:26**)

•• A Fruit Of The Spirit

- **Goodness** is a fruit of God's spirit and of the light from his Word of truth.
- On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, **goodness**, faith. (**Galatians 5:22**)
- For the fruitage of the light consists of every sort of **goodness** and righteousness and truth. (**Ephesians 5:9**)
- It is to be cultivated by the Christian. Obedience to Yehowah's commands develops **goodness**, no man has **goodness** on his own merit.
- For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, there dwells nothing good, for ability to wish is present with me, but **ability to work out what is fine is not present**. (**Romans 7:18**)
- The psalmist appeals to God as the Source of **goodness**.

- Teach me **goodness**, sensibleness and knowledge themselves, for in your commandments I have exercised faith. (**Psalms 119:66**)
- You are good and are doing good. Teach me your regulations. (**Psalms 119:68**)

•• **Goodness Bestows Benefits**

- **Goodness** can also mean beneficence, the bestowing of beneficial things upon others. Yehowah desires to express goodness toward his people, as the apostle Paul prayed for the Christians in Thessalonica.
- We always pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling and perform completely all he pleases of goodness and the work of faith with power. (**2 Thessalonians 1:11**)
- To that very end indeed we always pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling and perform completely all he pleases of **goodness** and the work of faith with power. (**2 Thessalonians 1:11**)
- Many are the examples of God's abundant **goodness** to those who look to him.
- On the eighth day he sent the people away, and they began to bless the king and to go to their homes, rejoicing and feeling merry of heart over all the **goodness** that Yehowah had performed for David his servant and for Israel his people. (**1 Kings 8:66**)
- How abundant your **goodness** is, which you have treasured up for those fearing you! Which you have rendered to those taking refuge in you, in front of the sons of men. (**Psalms 31:19**)
- The loving-kindnesses of Yehowah I shall mention, the praises of Yehowah, according to all that Yehowah has rendered to us, even the abundant **goodness** to the house of Israel that he has rendered to them according to his mercies and according to the abundance of his loving-kindnesses. (**Isaiah 63:7**)
- And they will certainly come and cry out joyfully on the height of Zion and become radiant over the **goodness** of Yehowah, over the grain and over the new wine and over the oil and over the young

- ones of the flock and the cattle. And their soul will simply become like a well-watered garden, and no more will they languish again. (**Jeremiah 31:12**)
- And I will saturate the soul of the priests with fatness, and with my **goodness** my own people will become satisfied, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 31:14**)
 - Moreover,
 - Yehowah is **good** to all, and his mercies are over all his works. (**Psalms 145:9**)
 - With a purpose he extends good to all, that his **goodness** may bring many to serve him and that they may thereby gain life. Likewise, any individual exercising goodness is a blessing to his associates.
 - Because of the **goodness** of the righteous ones a town is elated, but when the wicked ones perish there is a joyful cry. (**Proverbs 11:10**)
 - As servants of God and imitators of him, Christians are commanded to prove what is God's **good** and perfect will for them.
 - And quit being fashioned after this system of things, but be transformed by making your mind over, that you may prove to yourselves the **good** and acceptable and perfect will of God. (**Romans 12:2**)
 - They are to cling to what is **good**.
 - Let your love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is wicked, cling to what is good. (**Romans 12:9**)
 - To do **good**,
 - For those ruling are an object of fear, not to the **good** deed, but to the bad. Do you, then, want to have no fear of the authority? Keep doing **good**, and you will have praise from it. (**Romans 13:3**)
 - To work what is **good**,
 - But glory and honor and peace for everyone who works what is **good**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (**Romans 2:10**)

- **To follow after it,**
- **See that no one renders injury for injury to anyone else, but always pursue what is **good** toward one another and to all others. (1 Thessalonians 5:15)**
- **To be zealous for **good**,**
- **Indeed, who is the man that will harm you if you become zealous for what is **good**? (1 Peter 3:13)**
- **To imitate what is **good**,**
- **Beloved one, be an imitator, not of what is bad, but of what is **good**. He that does good originates with God. He that does bad has not seen God. (3 John 1:11)**
- **And to conquer evil with it,**
- **Do not let yourself be conquered by the evil, but keep **conquering the evil with the good**. (Romans 12:21)**
- **Their doing of **good** is to be especially extended to those related to them in the Christian faith. Additionally, it is to be practiced toward all others.**
- **Really, then, as long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is **good** toward all, but especially toward those related to us in the faith. (Galatians 6:10)**

•• **A Related Term**

- **Similar to the **Greek** word for good *a-ga-thos'* is another word, *ka-los'*. The latter denotes that which is intrinsically good, beautiful, well adapted to its circumstances or ends, as fine ground, or soil.**
- **Still others fell upon the fine soil and they began to yield fruit, this one a hundredfold, that one sixty, the other thirty. (Matthew 13:8)**
- **As for the one sown upon the fine soil, this is the one hearing the word and getting the sense of it, who really does bear fruit and produces, this one a hundredfold, that one sixty, the other thirty.**

(Matthew 13:23)

- **And that which is of fine quality, including that which is ethically good, right, or honorable, as God's name.**
- **They blaspheme the fine name by which you were called, do they not? (James 2:7)**
- **It is closely related in meaning to good, but may be distinguished by being translated fine, right, honest, or well.**
- **Already the ax is lying at the root of the trees, every tree, then, that does not produce fine fruit is to be cut down and thrown into the fire. (Matthew 3:10)**
- **Therefore, if one knows how to do what is right and yet does not do it, it is a sin for him. (James 4:17)**
- **Carry on prayer for us, for we trust we have an honest conscience, as we wish to conduct ourselves honestly in all things. (Hebrews 13:18)**
- **It is well not to eat flesh or to drink wine or do anything over which your brother stumbles. (Romans 14:21)**