

MINISTERIO LA FUENTE



# RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

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## GOD IS GOOD (PART TWO)

Last week we looked at the foundation on which we must build our lives. What was that foundation? “God is good, all the time.” We looked at how sometimes in our hearts we doubt the goodness of God, feeling that He is somewhat cruel, but how He showed us His love by sending His own Son to die on the cross to take our punishment. Sometimes we feel that God is not interested in our daily lives, in the trials we pass through. But in His love He chose to come as a man, suffered while being tempted and tested, just like we do, and then died on the cross and rose again, to give us the opportunity to be forgiven and to have a new life in Him. So the cross is proof that God is good and His word is true; and that His ways in our lives, although we can’t always understand them, are always good. Our doubts about God’s goodness should be laid to rest any time we look at the cross. God is good, all the time, and we must build our lives on the foundation of trusting in His goodness, His goodness that was revealed to us in the cross.

Sometimes we can acknowledge that God is good in a general sense, but we find it harder to believe in His love for us personally. Lots of people acknowledge, “Jesus died for our sins on the cross,” but they have do not feel He loves them in a personal and practical way. We can acknowledge, “God is good and loves people in general.” The Bible says that God “*maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*” (Matthew 5:45 KJV). Many of God’s blessings are enjoyed both by people who love Him and also by people who don’t love Him. It is clear that He loves people in general; but we find it difficult to acknowledge “God is good to **me** and loves **me**.” We find it hard to see how God loves us personally. The statement, “God is love”, while it sounds nice, also sounds hollow as we do not see His love in our own personal, daily life. We find it hard to believe, see and trust in His goodness in our personal life, in our everyday life. But God wants each of us to know that goodness and that love.

The cross is where we have to start. Jesus died for you, so you **personally** can be forgiven; and rose again so you can **personally** enter into a new life with God in which He can show you **personally** His goodness, day by day.

In fact the Bible tells us in Ephesians that He is going to continue to show His grace to you by showering you with His kindness throughout eternity.

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.* (Ephesians 2:4-7 NASB)

But what about your daily life down here, on this earth? If you are born again, you know you are forgiven and are now God’s child. You know that in heaven you will experience His kindness and love in amazing ways, but how do you experience the goodness and love of God in a practical, daily, personal way down here?

*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, <sup>21</sup>Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.* (Jude 1:20-21 KJV)

**We find it hard to see how  
God loves us personally.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God. That is a command. It is not something God can do for you. It is something **you** must do. You are in the love of God, but you must keep yourself there.

**W**e're agreed, are we not, that God loves you. He is good and that's the foundation on which you must build your house.

The foundation of a house is very important. It must be right or the house will fall. The foundation of your faith is that God is good, all the time. Even in your trials you must choose to believe that God is good, all the time. That is a good foundation.

But a house isn't completed once just the foundation is laid. Stone has to be laid on stone, and each of those stones has to be laid true to the foundation or the house will not stand. You must build your life on the foundation that God is good. And to build the house, you must daily keep yourself in the Love of God. How do you do that?

**A**re you a son of God? We've looked in the past at how not everyone is a son of God. Everyone has been created by God, but only those who have received Jesus have been given the power to become sons of God (John 1:11-13). But if you are born again, you are a son of God. Let's look at a verse in Romans.

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* (Romans 8:14 KJV)

Are you born again? If you are born again, you are a son of God. But it doesn't stop there. **If you allow yourself to be led by the Spirit of God, you experience daily what it means to be a son of God.** Let me explain.

My son Josh is my son, and that will never change. He has a place in my home and in my heart. He opens his heart in relationship to me, he spends time with me, he involves himself in the life of the family, and so he experiences the fullness and blessing of what it means to be my son. He keeps himself in my love.

But, he could choose every day to shut himself away in his heart and in his room, and stay away from the life of the family, stay away from relationship with me. If he did that, though he was still a son, he would not be experiencing daily what it means to be a son. He wouldn't be able to experience all the blessings of being a son. I would still love him as my son, but he would be unable to experience my love. He would not be keeping himself in my love.

In the same way, we as sons of God have the ability to close off our hearts, stay away from personal fellowship with our Father and stay away from the life of His church. **If we do this, we are still sons and God still loves us, but we are not living in the daily reality and blessing of being sons.** We are unable to experience His love day by day. We know God is good in a general sense, but not in personal, daily experience. We are not keeping ourselves in the love of God.

*As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* In other words, they are living in the daily reality and fullness of being God's sons. Do you want to experience all it means to be a son of God? Then you must keep yourself in the love of God, by allowing yourself to be led by the Spirit of God.

So how do you allow yourself to be led by the Spirit?

### Open Heart

You have to open your heart to God. What does that mean? It means choosing to have this attitude in your heart. "God, I want to follow You wherever You go. I choose You over and above my own desires and my own comfort. I want whatever you have for me. I am not perfect, but I love You and I want You." This is an open heart. **Opening your heart is a choice you have to make day by day, sometimes moment by moment. If your heart is open, you can be led by the Spirit.**

**Keep yourselves in the love of God.**

For example, when you come to a Sunday meeting and hear the message, you open your heart by saying, “God, I want to hear whatever you want to speak to me through this message. And I want to take it to heart and act upon it. Help me.” This gives the Spirit the opportunity to speak to you and lead you. If you do not open your heart, you will not receive much that will really help you from the message.

### **The Word of God**

We’ve spoken recently about the importance of living in the Word of God. Psalms says that God’s word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path (Psalm 119:105). It shows you where to go and what to do. It is important that you hear it, read it, meditate on it, receive it, and act upon it. This is part of being led by the Spirit.

### **Time with God**

It is important to have daily communion with God, spending time with Him, exposing yourself to His word and talking with Him. Always with your heart open and willing to receive and obey. This is part of being led by the Spirit.

### **Listening to His voice**

You must learn, little by little, to recognize his voice when you sense that He is speaking to you in your heart. Test those things against the Word of God and the counsel of mature brothers and sisters, and act on that Word. That’s part of being led by the Spirit.

### **Fellowship with the Body of Christ**

We’ve talked about fellowship; the importance of opening your heart and life to your brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. You cannot walk with God alone. So don’t be afraid or ashamed to ask for help. We need each other, to help each other keep ourselves in the love of God. This is part of being led by the Spirit.

### **Discipline**

And we’ve talked about the importance saying ‘no’ to your flesh and ‘yes’ to the will of God when faced with temptations, when passing through trials. This discipline is part of being led by the Spirit.

Let’s look at the verses surrounding the verse in Romans that we just read.

Romans 8:12-18

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. Do you want to walk in the abundant life that Jesus promised for His children? Then you must say ‘no’ to your flesh. How do you do that? It’s a decision, but it’s a decision that’s possible through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within you. You have to make the choice to say ‘no’ to your flesh and ‘yes’ to God; but **the moment you make that choice, the Spirit of God will be with you to help you live out that choice.**

<sup>14</sup>For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. As you say ‘no’ to your flesh and ‘yes’ to God’s will, that’s part of being led by the Spirit of God, part of being a son, part of keeping yourselves in His love.

<sup>15</sup>For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Sometimes we fear that God is cruel, vengeful or disinterested. He is not so. It is Satan that tries to manipulate us through those kinds of fears, not God. You have not received the spirit of bondage to fear but the spirit of adoption as a son by which you can cry ‘Abba, Father.’ He is your father, He loves you. He showed His love through the cross, and He will show you His love daily, if you keep yourself in His love.

**He showed His love through the cross, and He will show you His love daily, if you keep yourself in His love.**

<sup>16</sup>The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **If you are born again, somewhere deep inside you know that you are a child of God.** Despite your failures and doubts, the Spirit of God confirms to you and reassures you that you are His child. I make sure that every day I give my sons and my daughter a hug. No matter what has happened in the day, no matter whether or not I have had to discipline them, I want to remind them, 'You are mine, I love you.' **The Spirit does the same for you, in your heart and through His word.**

**It is important that you hear the Word of God, read it, meditate on it, receive it, and act upon it.**

<sup>17</sup>And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. <sup>18</sup>For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Yes, there are trials, yes there are sufferings. Jesus suffered. You are not called to look for suffering, but you are called to be led by His Spirit, to follow in His footsteps, and this sometimes involves sufferings. There are trials, there are sufferings, but as you suffer with Him, so you will be rewarded with Him. Note that it says, "suffer **with Him.**" If you are suffering for the cause of Christ, you are not alone. He is with you in the trial and the temptation. And those sufferings, those trials, those temptations that you have to endure, are NOTHING, compared to the glory of what God is doing in you, and what He will reveal in you in due time.

**S**o, keep yourself in the love of God. How? Allow yourself to be led by the Spirit. How? Keep your heart open to Jesus. Listen to His voice, His word. Obey Him. Ask for help when you need it. We are here for you and we love you in the love of Christ.

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:16 KJV)*

The cross, and the empty tomb, show us God's love. They show you God's love for you, personally. And **as you learn to keep believing that God loves you, and keep yourself in His love, you will experience His love more and more in a practical, personal and daily way.**

"Jesus, give each one of us a revelation of Your cross, of Your empty tomb, and of Your love for us, personally and corporately. Thank You that You have shed abroad Your love in our hearts through Your Holy Spirit who you have given to us. Thank You for who You are. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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**We want to serve you in your walk with Christ. Contact us with any questions you may have.**

"IF ANYONE THIRST, LET THEM COME TO ME AND DRINK" - JESUS ( JOHN 7:37 )