

Seeing God's Goodness in This Life

What keeps a person from giving up when life gets hard? According to Psalm 27:13, it is belief. Belief that God's goodness is not reserved for heaven, but is coming right here, right now, in this life. This is a message about holding on to that vision and refusing to let go.

What Does the Bible Say About Seeing God's Goodness Now?

Psalm 27:13 says, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." The phrase "land of the living" is key. It is not talking about heaven. It is talking about this life, while you are still breathing.

The GW Translation puts it this way: "I believe that I will see the goodness of the Lord in this world of the living." The Good News Translation says, "I know that I will live to see the Lord's goodness in this present life."

Many people believe all of God's promises are reserved for eternity. But that is simply not what the Bible teaches. God has good things planned for you on this earth, and you have to believe that, or you risk losing heart before you ever see them.

Why Believing in God's Future Goodness Matters Right Now

Life brings dark seasons. Evil reports come. Circumstances can look completely hopeless. The psalmist understood this. He said he would have given up entirely if he had not believed he was going to see something good on the other side of the darkness.

That belief is not wishful thinking. It is active, expectant faith. It is the kind of hope described in Zechariah 9:12: "Return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope. Even today I declare that I will restore double to you."

Notice the word "today." Not in heaven. Not in the sweet by and by. Today. God is promising double restoration in this life, for everything that has been lost or taken.

God Has Laid Up Goodness for Those Who Trust Him

Psalm 31:19 says, "Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men."

God has been preparing something for you. It has been stored up. And it is going to be released right here on earth, in front of people who doubted, mocked, or persecuted you. The sons of men, those who do not yet know the Lord, are going to witness what God does in your life.

Psalms 23:6 adds this promise: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Not just in eternity. All the days. Every single one.

What Did Jesus Promise About Giving Things Up for God?

In Mark 10:28-30, Peter pointed out that the disciples had left everything to follow Jesus. Jesus responded with a remarkable promise: "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or Father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time."

A hundredfold. Now. In this time. Jesus was not talking about heaven. He was talking about this life. Whatever you have surrendered for His name will be more than restored. That is a promise directly from Jesus.

How Paul's Story Shows What Happens When You Hold On to Vision

The apostle Paul is one of the most powerful examples of what it looks like to hold on to God's vision through impossible circumstances. After being beaten by a mob and thrown into prison, Jesus appeared to Him in Acts 23:11 and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

That word gave Paul a vision. He was going to Rome. His story was not over.

But then came two and a half more years in a dungeon. Then a prison ship. Then a hurricane that lasted for days. Acts 27:20 records the lowest point: "All hope that we would be saved was finally given up."

Even Paul lost hope. The storm was so relentless, so prolonged, that the vision faded. That is exactly what the enemy wants. He does not just want to hurt you. He wants to steal your vision so you disconnect from the faith that connects you to God's power.

What Happens When God Revives Your Vision

In Acts 27:23-25, an angel appeared to Paul and said, "Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar. And indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you. Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me."

The angel did not bring a new word. He simply reminded Paul of the same word God had already spoken. Sometimes that is all it takes. A reminder. A return to what God already said.

Paul grabbed hold of that vision again. And everything happened exactly as God promised. They ran aground on an island. A viper bit Paul. He shook it off into the fire and suffered no harm. He eventually arrived in Rome and preached before Caesar, fulfilling everything God had called Him to do.

How to Shake Off What the Enemy Throws at You

When Paul was bitten by the snake, he did not accept it as his fate. He shook it off. That response came from vision. He knew his story did not end on a beach with a snake bite. He knew where he was going.

Psalms 118:17 says, "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord." That is the posture of someone who has vision. Someone who knows their story is not finished.

How quickly you shake off what the enemy throws at you is directly connected to how clearly you can see what God has ahead for you. Vision gives you the ability to say, "That is not how my story ends."

The Fight of Faith Is a Good Fight Worth Fighting

Believing God's goodness is coming does not mean ignoring reality. It means choosing which report you believe. The world is quick to believe bad news. People accept devastating reports without hesitation. But when good news comes from God's Word, suddenly it feels too good to be true.

It is not too good to be true. It is the truth, and it is good. First Timothy 4:8 says that "godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." Both. This life and the next.

Paul finished his race. He ran it with joy. He fulfilled every phase of what God had for Him to do. No trial, no prison, no storm, no snake was able to stop him. And he did it with cheer, with excitement, with faith.

That is available to you too.

Life Application

This week, your challenge is to write down one specific area of your life where you have been tempted to lose hope. Maybe it is a relationship, a financial situation, a health issue, or a dream that has felt impossible. Then find one Bible verse that speaks directly to that area and read it out loud every single day this week. Let God's Word revive the vision He has placed in your heart. Do not wait for an angel to appear. Go back to what God has already said.

Ask yourself these questions as you reflect:

- Have I been quicker to believe bad reports than to believe what God says about my future?
- Is there a vision God gave me that I have allowed to fade because of prolonged difficulty?
- What would change in my daily attitude if I truly believed that goodness and mercy are following me right now?
- Am I living like someone whose story is not finished yet?

God has laid up goodness for you. He has prepared it. He has promised double restoration. Your job is to stay connected to that promise through faith, shake off what the enemy throws at you, and keep moving forward. You have not seen everything God has for you yet. Do not quit before you do.

Quotes

1. I would have lost heart if I had not believed I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
2. The land of the living means this life, while you are still alive.
3. God's goodness is not all reserved for heaven; He has promises for you here and now.
4. We are not leaving this life defeated; we are going out in a blaze of glory.
5. The goodness ahead of you can outweigh the pain behind you.
6. That is the power of faith: believing God before you see it.
7. I have not yet received all the goodness God still has for me.
8. Faith puts a fight in you; that is why it is called the good fight of faith.
9. Even today, God declares, "I will restore double to you."
10. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.
11. I believe something incredible is about to overtake us.
12. If you can believe bad news that quickly, learn to believe just as quickly in the goodness of God.
13. We are not going to die; we are going to live and declare the works of the Lord.
14. Godliness carries promise for this life and the life to come.
15. Never judge where you are with God by what your circumstances look like.
16. God's promise is simple: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
17. Paul could face the present because God had already spoken about his future.

18. This is not where my story ends.

19. When you have vision, you learn to shake off every weapon of the enemy.

20. I will live and not die, and I will declare the goodness of God in the land of the living.

Verses

1. Psalm 27:13

2. Psalm 31:19

3. Psalm 23:6

4. Mark 10:29-30

5. Zechariah 9:12

6. Psalm 118:17

7. Psalm 128:5

8. Mark 10:28-30

9. 1 Timothy 4:8

10. John 17:3

11. Acts 23:11

12. Acts 27:20

13. Acts 27:21-25

Summary

God's goodness is not reserved for heaven. It is promised for this life, right now, while you are still breathing. Psalm 27:13 makes it clear that belief in that coming goodness is what keeps a person from losing heart when life gets hard. God has laid up goodness for those who trust Him, and He has promised double restoration for everything that has been lost. Jesus Himself confirmed that whatever is surrendered for His name will be more than restored in this life. The key is holding on to the vision God has given you, even when circumstances make it feel impossible. Like Paul, who endured prison, a hurricane, and a snakebite without abandoning what God had spoken over him, you can shake off what the enemy throws at you when your vision stays clear. Do not quit before you see what God has already prepared for you.