

The Greatness of God's Goodness

Many people struggle with their faith because they believe receiving from God requires intense effort, perfect behavior, or the right formula. But what if the key to receiving everything you need from God is simply getting close to Him and letting who He is get all over you?

Why Do We Make Receiving From God So Hard?

There is a tendency to put too much emphasis on ourselves when it comes to faith. We focus on our believing rather than on who we are actually believing in. We think about whether we are doing everything right, whether we have confessed enough scriptures, prayed enough, or read our Bible enough.

The root of the problem is that we are too "me-minded" instead of "He-minded." When we shift our focus to God and His goodness, receiving becomes natural. It becomes easy.

What Does the Cross Tell Us About God's Love for Us?

When facing a physical symptom or praying for someone who is sick, one of the most powerful things you can do is meditate on what Jesus actually endured on the cross.

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." - 1 Peter 2:24

Every wound Jesus bore was intentional. The nails in His feet, the crown of thorns, the stripes on His back. Each one was for a specific purpose: your healing, your peace, your freedom. He did not suffer in vain. He took your pain so that you would not have to carry it.

Is God Moody or Unpredictable Like the Gods of Other Religions?

Many religions require their followers to constantly appease their gods through sacrifice and ritual because those gods are portrayed as moody and unpredictable. You never know if they are going to be in a good mood or a bad mood.

The God of the Bible is nothing like that. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The way He felt about you on the day you gave your life to Jesus is exactly how He feels about you right now. He has not taken one step back. He is just as close today as He has ever been.

What Does Jesus Really Mean When He Says "Come to Me"?

In Matthew 11:28-29, Jesus does not say, "Come to me, all you who are living right." He says something very different.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." - Matthew 11:28-29

He is not calling the qualified. He is calling the overworked, the burdened, and the worn out. And His promise is not more assignments or more rules. His promise is rest. Inner rest. Peace from anxiety, worry, fear, and uncertainty.

What Does It Mean That God Is Gentle and Lowly?

Jesus describes Himself as gentle and lowly in heart. That word "lowly" speaks to the very core of who He is. He is the Most High God, and yet He comes down to your level. He will even go lower than your level and wash your feet.

Psalms 113:4-7 captures this beautifully: "The Lord is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap."

God is so far above all of creation that He humbles Himself just to look at it. And yet He cares about the smallest details of your life. He gets under the poorest, most helpless person and lifts them up to sit with royalty. That is who He is.

How Does Spending Time With God Actually Change You?

Humility, love, and faith are not things you produce through effort. They are things that get on you when you spend time with God.

Moses was called the meekest man on the face of the earth. But he was not always that way. At forty years old, he murdered a man. What changed him was not a self-improvement program. It was a face-to-face relationship with God. The closer he got to God, the more meek He became.

King David understood this too. In Psalm 18:35 he wrote: "You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your gentleness made me great."

David did not attribute his greatness to his own works or his own strength. He said it was God's gentleness, God's meekness, that made Him great.

Is Christianity About Following Rules or About a Relationship?

Religion turns God into a works system. It turns faith into a formula. It turns the Bible into a checklist. But that is the exact opposite of what God intended.

Jesus stands at the door and knocks. He does not use a battering ram. He does not force His way in. He knocks gently and waits. He is pursuing you far more than you have ever pursued Him. And His invitation is simple: open the door and let Him in so you can sit down together and fellowship.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." - Revelation 3:20

He wants to be your closest friend. He calls us His bride. He calls Himself your first love. It is all about relationship, not religion.

What Happens When You Simply Abide in Him?

When you abide in Jesus, His faith gets on you. His peace gets on you. His love gets on you. His wisdom gets on you. You do not have to try to produce these things. They flow naturally from closeness with Him.

If you are struggling with worry, get close to the Prince of Peace. If you are struggling with doubt, get close to the One who is faith itself. If you are struggling with a lack of love, get close to the One who is love.

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." - James 4:8

Every single time you draw near to Him, He draws near to you. That is a guaranteed promise.

Life Application

This week, instead of trying harder to believe, confess more scriptures, or work at your faith, simply spend time with Jesus. Open your Bible not to check a box but to fellowship with Him. Sit quietly and let His peace come over you. Think about the cross and what He bore for you specifically. Let His gentleness get on you.

Ask yourself these questions as you go through your week:

- Am I focused more on my own effort to believe, or am I focused on who God actually is?
- When I open my Bible or pray, am I doing it out of obligation or out of a genuine desire to be close to Him?
- What area of my life do I need to stop striving in and simply bring to Jesus and let Him carry it?
- How would my relationships with others change if I let His humility and gentleness get on me this week?

God is not waiting for you to get it all together before He shows up. He is already knocking. Just open the door.

Quotes

1. Stop being me-minded and become He-minded—fix your thoughts on His goodness, not yourself.
2. Faith comes easily when your focus is on God's goodness instead of your own performance.
3. God has never stepped away from you; He is just as close today as He has always been.
4. God pursues you more passionately than you have ever pursued Him.
5. Jesus invites the weary to exchange their burdens for His rest and peace.
6. Draw near to the Prince of Peace, and His peace will begin to rest upon you.
7. Every time you draw near to God, He draws near to you and surrounds you with His peace.
8. Jesus doesn't merely have the answer—He is the answer.
9. Fellowship with God causes His faith to rub off on you.
10. God responds to hearts that believe His Word and draw near to Him—not to religious performance.
11. God is so infinitely great that He humbles Himself simply to look upon His creation.
12. God delights in lifting the lowly from the dust and seating them among princes.
13. God's gentleness is what makes ordinary people truly great.
14. Humility is not what brings you close to God; closeness to God produces humility.
15. Faith, love, and humility aren't manufactured—they are imparted through fellowship with God.
16. The God you believe in shapes the person you become.
17. Stop striving to earn God's blessings and start enjoying the salvation He has freely given.

18. When worry comes, spend time with Jesus until His peace settles over you.

19. Fruitfulness flows naturally from those who simply abide in Christ.

20. The One who became poor to make you rich cares about every detail of your life.

Verses

1. 1 Peter 2:24

2. Matthew 11:28

3. Matthew 11:29

4. Psalm 113:4

5. Psalm 113:6

6. Psalm 113:7

7. Psalm 113:8

8. Psalm 18:35

9. 2 Corinthians 4:13

10. Mark 11

11. 2 Corinthians 8:9

12. James 1:5

13. Mark 10

14. 1 Peter 5:5

Summary

Many believers struggle with their faith because they believe receiving from God requires intense effort, perfect behavior, or the right spiritual formula. The real problem is that we tend to be too focused on ourselves, on whether we are believing hard enough, praying enough, or doing enough, rather than focusing on who God actually is. When we shift our attention from our own effort to His goodness and character, receiving from Him becomes natural. Jesus does not call the qualified or the put-together. He calls the weary, the burdened, and the worn out, and His promise to them is not more assignments but genuine rest for their souls.

God is nothing like the unpredictable, moody gods of other religions. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The way He felt about you the moment you gave your life to Him is exactly how He feels about you

right now. He is gentle and humble in heart, so far above all creation that He humbles Himself just to look at it, and yet He gets under the poorest and most helpless person to lift them up. His gentleness is not a weakness. It is the very thing that produces greatness in those who draw close to Him, just as it did in Moses and King David.

Christianity was never meant to be a works system or a checklist. It is a relationship. Jesus stands at the door and knocks gently, waiting, pursuing you far more than you have ever pursued Him. When you abide in Him, His peace, His faith, His love, and His wisdom naturally flow into your life without striving. If you are struggling with worry, draw close to the Prince of Peace. If you are struggling with doubt, draw close to the One who is faith itself. Every single time you draw near to Him, He draws near to you. That is a guaranteed promise.