

WHAT TO DO WHEN LIFE IS GOING WELL

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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version

What do you do when the prayer has been answered, the pressure has eased, and life finally feels good? We hear a great deal about trusting God in trouble. We also need to learn how to walk with God when we have peace, opportunity, and something to enjoy. A good season deserves a faithful response.

Some people become so busy enjoying what they prayed for that their relationship with God receives less attention. Others are so accustomed to difficulty that they feel uneasy whenever life becomes peaceful. Today, I want us to learn how to receive the good with joy and handle it with wisdom.

When I speak about life going well, I mean more than money. Your home may be more peaceful. A relationship may be healthier. Your work may be bearing fruit. You may finally have enough breathing room to think clearly and make thoughtful decisions. These are things worth recognizing and appreciating.

Moses addressed this very situation as Israel prepared to enter the land God had promised them. He described full meals, comfortable houses, and increasing resources. He wanted them to remember the God who had brought them through bondage and the wilderness.

DEUTERONOMY 8:10-14

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine

heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

Notice the progression. Their circumstances improve, their possessions increase, and their hearts can become proud. The passage identifies forgetting God through neglecting His commandments. They could remember His name while giving His direction less authority in their lives. These words first addressed Israel within its covenant relationship with God. They teach us to remember Him in abundance. They do not establish a measure by which we can rank people's faithfulness according to their income or circumstances. Faithful people also experience hardship. The question for this lesson is what kind of person I am becoming while things are going well. Am I becoming more grateful? Am I easier to teach? Does someone else benefit from what I have received? Let us consider six biblical responses to a good season.

#1 ENJOY THE GOOD GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13

I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

The passage places rejoicing, doing good, and enjoying the fruit of our labor together. There is room in a faithful life for pleasure, rest, and appreciation. We can acknowledge the difficulties that exist in the world and still receive a good meal or a peaceful afternoon as a gift.

For some of us, receiving peace takes practice. We have spent so much time managing problems that we keep searching for the next problem even when nothing requires our attention. We can be sitting at a table with people we love while our minds rehearse everything that might go wrong.

If that describes you, begin gently. Notice what is actually happening around you. The meal is here. The conversation is kind. There is something good in this moment. You can thank God for it and participate in it. You do not have to solve tomorrow before appreciating today.

QUOTE: You are allowed to enjoy the life you have been asking God to help you build.

Enjoyment also requires attention. If every accomplishment immediately becomes a demand for a larger accomplishment, you may never experience satisfaction. You complete one assignment and immediately criticize yourself for the next unfinished one. You achieve some stability and begin measuring yourself against somebody else's abundance.

Pause long enough to recognize progress. Think about the patient conversations, difficult decisions, and steady work that helped you reach this place. Acknowledge the people who contributed. Let an ordinary evening become an occasion for gratitude without needing a special event to justify it.

A good season can also give you room to rest and care for your responsibilities thoughtfully. Make time for your family. Attend to the maintenance you have postponed. Finish what you already committed to before accepting more. Enjoyment and responsible stewardship can support each other.

Receive what is good without making comparison the measure of whether you have enough to appreciate.

Someone else's larger house does not erase the peace in yours.

Someone else's public recognition does not diminish the value of the work you are doing. Comparison can take your attention away from a blessing that was meaningful to you before you saw what somebody else had.

There is also a difference between enjoying a gift and expecting it to satisfy every longing in your life. A promotion can be a real blessing while leaving you with spiritual and relational needs. Enjoy what it provides, and continue bringing your whole life before God.

This week, choose one good thing you have been rushing past. Share a meal without checking your phone. Take a quiet walk. Celebrate a milestone with the people who helped you. Receive that moment with a simple prayer of thanks.

Ask yourself: What good thing in my life have I been too hurried or too worried to enjoy?

#2 BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT THANKING GOD

PSALM 103:1-2

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

The psalmist speaks to his own soul. He deliberately calls his attention back to the goodness of God. Gratitude deserves that kind of intention because what once amazed us can eventually become familiar. At one time, you may have prayed earnestly for the opportunity you now complain about every morning. You may have longed for the stability that now feels ordinary. Familiarity does not reduce the value of what you received. It can, however, reduce the attention you give it. Thanksgiving helps us remember accurately. We recognize our work, and we also acknowledge that we needed help. We remember who encouraged us, who opened a door, and who remained patient while we were learning. We recognize the mercy of God in the parts of our story that could have ended differently.

LUKE 17:15-19

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Jesus draws attention to the man who returned. We are not told everything that motivated the other nine. What we can see is that this man made a deliberate response to the mercy he had received. He interrupted his movement to acknowledge Jesus.

We can practice that same deliberate return. After an answered prayer, take

time to pray again with gratitude. After a breakthrough, make room for worship. When the urgent need has passed, continue the conversation with the One you called upon during the need.

QUOTE: Let the answer to your prayer become a reason to spend more time with God.

Be as specific in your thanksgiving as you were in your request. We often pray with detail when we want something. We can thank God with the same attention. Thank Him for the conversation that brought understanding, the provision that met a need, or the strength that helped you finish a difficult task. Specific gratitude keeps the goodness from becoming invisible.

Thank the people through whom help came, too. A sincere message to a faithful friend, family member, teacher, or coworker can acknowledge a contribution you have quietly taken for granted. Gratitude toward God should make us more attentive to the kindness of people. You can also keep a simple record of answered prayers and moments of provision. Reading it later may help you remember what familiarity has blurred. This is a practice of remembrance, not a method of controlling what happens next.

Before this day ends, name three things for which you are grateful. Give each one a full sentence. Then ask yourself: Have I taken time to thank God for something I once asked Him for with urgency?

#3 REMAIN HUMBLE AS YOUR LIFE IMPROVES

DEUTERONOMY 8:17-18

And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Moses addresses the story people begin telling themselves about their success. They may have worked diligently, made wise decisions, and

persevered. Yet they can begin describing their progress as though they never depended on anything beyond themselves.

Humility remembers the fuller story. You used your abilities, and you also received abilities to use. You made choices, and you also encountered opportunities you did not create. Other people taught you, served you, and helped carry responsibilities that supported your progress.

Acknowledge your effort honestly. Let that acknowledgment include gratitude for the conditions that made the effort possible. You can have confidence in the gifts God has given you while remaining aware of your dependence on Him.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:7

For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

Paul's questions challenge boasting. They invite us to examine what we possess as something received. That perspective affects how we treat people whose circumstances differ from ours. We become less eager to assume that our advantage proves our superiority.

An increase in your resources never increases your value above another human being.

Pay attention to how you treat people who cannot advance your interests. Are you patient with the person serving you? Do you keep your promises when you no longer need somebody's help? Can you listen respectfully to a person with less money, influence, or education than you have?

Humility also keeps us teachable. Someone may be gifted and successful while still needing correction in a particular area. A growing business does not answer a concern about dishonesty. Public appreciation does not settle a concern about how we speak to our family. Each concern deserves an honest response.

QUOTE: A good season should leave you grateful enough to

listen when someone tells you the truth.

Consider a person who receives a promotion and gradually stops listening to the colleagues who helped them develop. They may continue making good decisions for a while. But by dismissing feedback, they are giving themselves less opportunity to notice an error. Humility protects access to information we need.

Keep trusted people close enough to speak honestly. Ask questions that invite a real answer: Where have I become impatient? What responsibility am I overlooking? What has changed in the way I treat people? Listen without preparing an immediate defense.

Remembering where God has brought you from can deepen your compassion. Use that memory to remain approachable. When you meet somebody who is learning what you have already learned, offer the patience you once needed.

Ask yourself: As my circumstances improve, am I becoming easier or harder to correct? This week, acknowledge one person's contribution to your progress and receive one piece of honest feedback without arguing.

#4 KEEP DEPENDING ON GOD FOR DIRECTION

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

The instruction includes all our ways. We acknowledge God when a decision is difficult, and we acknowledge Him when a decision looks easy. We need His wisdom when resources are scarce and when we have several attractive options.

Success can encourage an assumption that whatever worked before will be right again. Experience is useful, but each new decision deserves attention. The opportunity may be different. Your responsibilities may have changed. Something you can afford may require time and energy that you have already promised elsewhere.

A good opportunity still needs discernment. Ask whether it agrees with Scripture, whether it fits your responsibilities, and whether wise counsel supports your reasoning. Give yourself enough time to consider the consequences. Excitement can be real while your judgment still needs to slow down.

Having the ability to say yes does not remove the need to seek God's direction.

Imagine that your work is flourishing and another opportunity arrives. It promises more income or visibility, but it would consume the time you finally have with your family. The decision involves more than whether the offer looks successful. You need to consider what accepting it will require of the life already entrusted to you.

JOHN 15:5

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Jesus describes fruitfulness through abiding in Him. A branch remains dependent on the vine while it bears fruit. The presence of fruit gives the branch no reason to separate from its source of life.

Apply that picture to your spiritual life. As responsibilities increase, continue making time for prayer and Scripture. Stay connected to worship and Christian community. Keep the habit of bringing your motives before God, especially when a decision offers something you strongly desire.

QUOTE: Continue seeking God with the same sincerity you brought to Him before the door opened.

This requires intention because good things can fill a calendar. A growing career, a relationship, or a new project can absorb the hours once available for spiritual attention. Look honestly at your schedule. Give your relationship with God a place that reflects its importance to you. Prayer also gives us room to consider what we want and why we want it. Are we responding to a meaningful responsibility? Are we trying to keep pace with somebody else? Are we pursuing an opportunity because it serves a purpose, or because we

fear being forgotten? Bring those motives into the light.

Faithful dependence can sound very ordinary: Lord, help me make this decision with wisdom. Show me what I am overlooking. Give me the courage to honor the responsibilities I already have. Help me respond obediently to what Your Word makes clear.

Choose one decision you have been making on confidence alone. Bring it deliberately into prayer and seek wise counsel. Ask yourself: Where have I begun assuming that past success makes present dependence unnecessary?

#5 USE YOUR BLESSINGS TO DO GOOD FOR OTHERS

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Paul brings enjoyment and generosity into the same instruction. People with resources are told to keep their trust in God and to become active in doing good. In this passage, willing to communicate means willing to share. Their abundance creates an opportunity to serve.

Ask what the good in your life makes possible for someone else. Financial stability may allow you to meet a need. Experience may allow you to mentor someone. A position of influence may allow you to recommend a qualified person whose work has gone unnoticed.

You may also have more patience, time, or emotional room than you once had. Use some of that capacity to listen well. Encourage someone who is learning. Make a helpful introduction. Generosity includes the thoughtful use of what you actually have.

Give people help that respects their dignity and strengthens their ability to move forward.

Before you decide what somebody needs, listen. A person may need an opportunity, practical assistance, or clear information. Help becomes more useful when it responds to the real need. You do not have to make their hardship public in order to make your generosity visible.

QUOTE: One meaningful use of a good season is to make another person's burden lighter.

Generosity can also be planned. Set aside resources to give. Make time available for service. Choose a responsibility you can carry faithfully. Thoughtful planning allows you to respond with care while continuing to honor obligations to your household and others who depend on you.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Paul emphasizes a willing, purposeful heart. Give as an expression of gratitude and love. Let your decision be honest and thoughtful. Generosity does not require agreeing to every request, and a healthy boundary can help you continue giving responsibly over time. We also need to examine what we expect from the person we help. A gift should not become a claim of ownership over their decisions. If you offer assistance, be clear about what you can provide and any appropriate terms. Avoid using another person's need to make them dependent on your approval.

For example, you might help someone prepare for an interview, contribute to a specific expense, or support a ministry serving your community. Decide what you can do with integrity. Carry it through without demanding praise. The usefulness of the help matters more than the attention it brings.

This week, identify one person or one worthy work you can strengthen. Choose a specific action and complete it. Ask yourself: Who is experiencing

some benefit from the good that has come into my life?

#6 REMAIN SPIRITUALLY ATTENTIVE AND FAITHFUL

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12-13

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Paul places a warning against overconfidence beside an assurance of God's faithfulness. We take temptation seriously, and we trust God to help us respond faithfully. Spiritual attentiveness can coexist with a peaceful, joyful life.

A good season can change which temptations we face. More influence may tempt us to expect special treatment. More privacy may make it easier to hide a habit. More money may make an unwise choice easier to carry out. Recognizing these possibilities helps us make thoughtful choices before a situation becomes complicated.

We also need to watch small changes in our attitudes. We may become less patient, more defensive, or more willing to excuse a behavior that once troubled us. These changes deserve attention even while our work is succeeding and other people are praising us.

Visible success does not settle every question about the condition of your heart.

Ask who has permission to speak honestly into your life. Keep appropriate boundaries around money, relationships, and the use of your authority. If a decision has to remain hidden from everyone whose judgment you respect, slow down and examine it carefully.

QUOTE: Remain teachable enough to respond to correction while the problem is still small.

PSALM 139:23-24

**Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way
everlasting.**

This prayer invites God into places we may not examine clearly on our own. It gives us language for honest self-examination even when circumstances provide no obvious reason to stop and reflect. We ask Him to reveal what needs attention and to lead us in His way.

When God brings something to your attention through Scripture and honest conviction, respond. Apologize where you have spoken carelessly. Correct an inaccurate account. Restore a neglected responsibility. A prompt response keeps success from becoming an excuse to postpone obedience. The next step may be practical and quiet. You may need to give a trusted person access to information, change a routine, or step back from an unhealthy interaction. Appropriate accountability supports the kind of life you want to live before God.

Take care not to turn attentiveness into constant suspicion that something terrible must happen. Paul's instruction directs us toward humility and God's faithfulness. We can be watchful without spending a good season predicting its collapse.

Choose one regular time to examine your life honestly. Ask: What am I excusing because everything appears to be working? Is there an instruction I already understand but have delayed obeying? What would a faithful response look like this week?

Bring one clear answer to God, and take the next responsible step. Let the peace in your circumstances make room for deeper attention to your heart. Take a moment now and think about one area of your life that is going well. Name it clearly. Perhaps something has improved that you have barely acknowledged because another area still needs attention. You can recognize that goodness honestly.

Now consider your response. Is there something to enjoy with gratitude? Someone to thank? A place where you need to remain humble? A decision to bring before God? A person you can help? An act of obedience you have postponed?

PSALM 116:12

What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?

Let that question become personal. We cannot repay God for His goodness. We can offer Him a willing response. Choose one action you will take within the next seven days. Make it specific enough that you can recognize when you have done it.

You might thank someone who has helped you, restore a neglected time of prayer, make room to enjoy your family, give toward a real need, or respond to correction you have resisted. Take the step that speaks most directly to what God has brought to your attention.

Let us pray together.

Father, thank You for the good You have allowed us to experience. Thank You for provision, meaningful work, loving relationships, and moments of peace. Open our eyes to the gifts we have begun taking for granted. Teach us to enjoy Your goodness with gratitude. Help us remain humble as our circumstances improve. Keep us attentive to Your Word and willing to receive wise counsel. Give us discernment for the opportunities before us and the courage to honor our responsibilities.

Show us how to use what we have to serve others with love and wisdom. Search our hearts. Bring neglected obedience to our attention, and help us respond honestly. May our lives reflect Your goodness in the way we worship, work, give, and treat people. In Jesus' name, amen.

Make this your personal commitment as you leave this lesson.

I will receive the good in my life with gratitude.

I will remember God and remain teachable.

I will seek His direction in my decisions.

I will use what I have to do good for others.

I will respond to His Word with faithful obedience.

