

From his first appearance in the Garden of Eden, Satan has sought to make people question God's goodness. It's one of his often-used schemes. In the West, this often takes the form of the philosophical challenge: "If God is good, why does evil exist? Why is there [whatever terrible thing is in the headlines]?" In the Majority World, we hear much more personal and heartbreaking statements:

"We are cursed by God, so nothing good can happen in our country."

"God is punishing us with this [disaster]."

"God only cares about spiritual things. He isn't concerned about our daily needs."

The truth is *God is good*. He longs to be gracious to us, not to punish us. And He cares deeply about our every need. John the Baptist once asked how he could be sure that Jesus was the Savior from God. The evidence Jesus offered was, "The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor" (Luke 7:22). It's an amazing list illustrating God's concern for the most vulnerable and His goodness toward them. God still heals and transforms in our world today. God is still good.

Please join us in praying...

- Praise God for his unfailing goodness. Proclaim these verses in praise to God:
 - Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore He will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him! (Isaiah 30:18)
 - He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; He seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor (1 Samuel 2:8).
- Pray for those who are doubting God's goodness, especially the most vulnerable. Pray that they will "taste and see" that He is good in the midst of their circumstances.
- Pray for those who have grown up believing that God has cursed or punished them or doesn't care about their needs. Pray that they would hear and understand the truth of God's goodness and love. Pray that Satan's lies would have no power over them.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

He is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens...
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His love endures forever.

I Chronicles 16:23-26, 34



