

# “Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness and Faith”

By Arman Jorge

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You may be seated. What an awesome, awesome worship. I mean, I could go home right now and just, you know, just share that to everybody. Good morning, I just want to say good morning to everyone, this morning, and I hope everyone's doing good this morning. You know, I asked that one time, and we were in the church, and it says, “What do you mean, how am I doing? Don't you know, don't you see I'm in the church today? I'm something I'm looking for something of God to bless me today.” You know? So, I mean, I'm here too, I mean, I'm looking for God to bless me this morning. But, if you don't know me, my name is Arman; I teach Sunday school class here, in Christian Fellowship Church. This morning, I was asked to bring the message. Eric, good to see you. William, good to see you, too, your family. Before I go on, I just wanted to thank God for this opportunity to—you know, this right here, it's really awesome. Especially blessed by God. But, you know, sometimes, though, I feel like Moses, you know, because when I pray to God, and I tell God, and I say, “Why me, God? I mean, You know I can't talk. Don't You know English is my second language?” and, God says—and God just slaps me upside down a couple times, and I'm back to myself again. You know? But, it's been a blessing for the last couple of Sundays, because we've been talking about the fruit of the spirit. And, I really wanted to, you know, I want to kind of revisit the blessing a little bit. Pastor Lee, a couple of Sundays ago, he talked about the foundation of trees, and fruit of Joy, and fruit of Gentleness. Pastor Lee, I wanted to share this to you, because you talked about the trees, and when I was, I woke up this morning I ironed our clothes, you know, for church. And, my wife saw me, she saw me ironing this (gesturing to his shirt) and my pants. She says, “What are you doing?” And, I said, “I'm ironing my clothes.” “You think that match together? I mean, come on.” And, I told her, “Well, if it was good for God, it's good enough for me. Because, Pastor Lee preached about on trees. And, I said, “Look at the tree. What the color of the body? it's brown. And, what are the leaves? green. And, we're talking about the fruit of the spirit.” So, she started laughing so hard about that, but, I wanted to share that to you. But, you know, the blessing that I got out of your message was, you know, it's when you talked about the power of choice. You know, you have the power to be good, and you have the power to be bad, whichever you choose from. And, that's just like God. If you're not a Christian, you just kind of okay, but, if you're a Christian, that puts a really note on yourself, there, because, you know, God Almighty gave Himself to you, and just died on the cross, and loved you. And, you can't just live whatever you want to do. You know? So, and brother Chris Ulrich preached on bring the meekness, last Sunday, God brings Peace, and thankfulness, God brings it all together. And, I like that last part, Chris, because, once again, whether you're Christian or not, God blesses you. Because, the Bible says it rains on the just in the unjust (Matthew 5:45) and it brings cursings and blessings to every one of us. But, once again, if you're a Christian, it made a big difference on living for God, because God, because, if you're praying for something and God answers your prayer in a way that you don't kind of agree on, but, when God brings it together at the end, it all comes down to it, and bring the blessings to you, and I was like, “Wow. That's what it meant.” You know? But you can't see that.

But, this morning I want to talk about goodness and faith. Goodness and faith. I'm going to read to you Galatians, five, twenty-two to twenty-three, which is the theme for the month, and, it says:

**Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Against such there is no law. All throughout the day, “Good,” “Goodness,” is in our vocabulary, you know, you say, “Good morning,” “Good afternoon,” “Good day,” “Oh, my goodness,” you know? I work at a warehouse with some Spanish people, and, when they did something wrong, or they said something bad, or something startled them, and they go, “Oh, my goodness!” All day long I hear that. And, you know, it just makes me laugh. You know? But, the thing is, when I go home, and I see my daughter, maybe she spilled the water on the floor, and I say, “Oh, my goodness!” and she looked at me, and she’s like, “You okay, Dad?” You know? And, it just gets in you. And, is that what God was trying to tell us from the fruit of the spirit? of course not. That’s not what God’s trying to tell us. What is God trying to tell us with the fruit of the of goodness? Well, the word goodness in the Greek word, it’s called agathōsynē. Agathōsynē, it comes from the word agathos, which means good. But when agathos becomes the word agathōsynē, it means goodness in the sense of being good to someone. It’s like a person—there’s an urge in a person to reach beyond himself to meet the—so that he can meet the needs of the people around him. That’s what it says. And, this word portrays a person who is generous, big hearted, and charitable with his finances. And, you know, with everything, time, and everything. Not just money, I’m not just talking about just money. And, we would call this person a giver. This person is a giver. So, and part one of my message, it’s good equals giver.

## Part 1: Good Equals Giver.

In Matthew chapter nineteen, verse sixteen through twenty-one, and it says:

**Matthew 19:16-21** *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.*

The first man did, he said, he praised Jesus, “Good master,” Jesus said, “Thank you very much. What can I do for you this morning, buddy?” he didn’t do that. Obviously, he didn’t do that. He said, Jesus turned around and gave the praise back to God. He said, “Why callest Me thou good? There is none good but one, that is God.” And, then, Jesus is telling us, it’s in nature of God to be good. And, then He gave him a direction on what to do, and how to do it, to be good. So, he said, Jesus said to him, “Thou shalt do no murder.” I had not murdered anybody. I hope not. I have not murdered anybody. But, you know what? But, you know what? Okay, I have murdered some people with my mouth and with my tongue. I hope I’m not the only one. Did I say a bad word? Can I say, “Oh, my goodness!” But, I’m going to leave that alone. So, the next one He says “Thou shalt not commit adultery” I have never cheated on my wife. Okay? No cheating. Right? I have never cheated on my wife. But, throughout my—throughout my walk and my ministry, I know I have cheated on God. I know I have cheated on God. I’m just going to say it just like that. And, it says here, “Thou shalt not steal.” I worked in a warehouse, and I had a manager, and when he calls us for a meeting and when he comes to us, and says, all the time, he says, “You know, if you’re on the clock, and you’re out there, and you’re not working, you know, you’re stealing from the company.” And, if you’re not a Christian, that would just go over your head. But, I’m a Christian, and I heard the word steal, and that got my attention. You know? That got my attention. So, the next one says, “Thou shalt not bear false witness;” don’t lie. But, you know this man right here, he said, “I have kept these things from my youth up.” He’s already broke the

commandment, because he already lied, right there. Nobody can keep the commandments all through your life. You know? That's why Jesus said, "If that will be perfect, go and sell that thou hast." Now, the next one, it says, "Honor thy father in my mother." In Ephesians, it says, "If you honor your mother and your father, you will have a long life." (Ephesians 6:1-3) I think I blew that one away; I'll never get a long life. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." So, what is this about good equals giver? Well, Jesus is telling us, He's telling the man, to enter the kingdom, you have to be good. And, when you exercise that good, when you exercise that good, then you become a giver. Because, you have kept yourself from hurting other people. So, continue on with goodness, in Jesus's ministry, when He was walking on the earth, Jesus didn't just perform miracles. He used the money that was made to his ministry to help feed the poor and the needy. And, he showed that as an example to us, because, so that we can go through our inner ministry, we can do the same thing in our ministry and here's an example in the Scriptures. And, he says in Luke, chapter eight, one through three:

**Luke 8:1-3** *And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.*

As you can see, these people right here, these women right here, supported Jesus's ministry with their substance. Whether that's money, or gold, or whatever. Then, in John, it shows us what they do with that money. And, John, chapter twelve, verse three through five:

**John 12:3-5** *Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?*

So, we can see that Judas is Jesus's accountant. And, he is the one to redistribute all this for the needy. But, we can tell, from the Scriptures, some of this is going into his pocket. So, what I'm saying is, God is interested in helping the people just as much as he's providing miracles to every one of us. And, today, Jesus still wants to do goodness through each one of us, because he wants us to be selfless, so that, people will live better lives.

## **Part 2: Bad Is Not the Opposite of Good, Greed Is.**

Just reading the last verse of Matthew chapter 19, verse 21 through 22:

**Matthew 19:21-22** *Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.*

He didn't want to share his wealth to anybody. He didn't want to share. You know why? Because of greed. He wants to take it all to himself. Have you ever met someone that would consume every spare dollar on himself, and not think of God's—not to give anything, anything to God for his ministry. I will be honest with you, at one time, I am that person. You know? Because, I didn't give anything to God. But, when I became a Christian, you know, I started giving, I gave it all. You know? I give what God is blessing me. You know? And, I know all of you, a lot of you have been doing that. And, that's great, and, amen, because this is God's ministry, and this is our

ministry. You know? So, here's an example of greed. In Luke, chapter fifteen, verse eleven through fourteen:

**Luke 15:11-14** *And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.*

What is riotous living? It says it's characterized by wild and uncontrolled behavior. Out of control, out of control. You ever see those athletes that were, at one time, at the highest peak of their game, and they were filthy stinking rich, too, you know, at one time. They buy everything, you know, but now they're homeless. Riotous living. You know, because they keep wanting everything that they want, even though they don't have no money, they get it anyway. So, they go bankrupt. Have you ever felt wanting or need something, because the Bible says, right here, it says he began to be in want? Have you ever felt wanting to be something? I have, you know, I don't know if this is a good example, but, when we were young, when I was young, we were poor. We don't have nothing, you know, we didn't have no money. We, when I was young, we wanted to, as kids, they want to play, so we used to play basketball on the tennis court. And, we made ourselves like little hoops and we hung it up on the light post. And, we play basketball, right there. And, to make the game, you know, really good, so, whoever lose the game would buy the ice so that we can all have ice cold water at the end. And, we do that, and it's good. And, we don't play basketball with our tennis shoes and Jordans. We play with our flip flops, and sometimes just barefooted. You know? We wanted to do something like that. It was something that we want, so whatever we got, we do it. But, greed, greed is something else. You know? Most babies, when they learn to say words, they say, you know, they say, "Mommy, Daddy," and the next word they learn is, "Mine. Mine! That is mine! You can't have—mine!" I wonder why that is, you know, it's just in our nature to be like, "Mine!" like that. "Mine!" So,

### **Part 3: The Just Shall Live by Faith**

The just shall live by faith. The word faith is a Greek word, it's called, "Pistis." Faith conveys the idea of a person who is faithful, reliable, loyal, and steadfast. It pictures a person who is devoted, trustworthy, dependable, dedicated, constant, and unwavering. This of course, works against the flesh, which seeks to be lazy, uncommitted, undependable, and completely unreliable. In Luke, chapter ten, verse thirty through thirty-five:

**Luke 10:30-35** *And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.*

Church, that is faith in action. That is faith in action. This man took his time, to bring this man on his feet, and become selfless, just selfless. You know? If this unchanging, constant,

stable, unwavering, behavior is the nature of God himself, it shouldn't surprise you and me, if we allow His spirit freely to work in our lives, He makes us faithful instead fast, just like God. You know? So, we should expect faithfulness to grow into our lives so that we can have this fruit of the spirit. In Hebrew, chapter ten, verse thirty-eight and thirty-nine, it says:

**Hebrews 10:38-39** *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

Can you imagine someone that you love—your parents, your grandma, your dad, your brother, your sister, your wife, your husband—can you imagine they said to you, “I have no pleasure in you. I don't want to be with you. I don't want to be with you.” That hurts, that hurts. Whatever the reason was, it still hurts whether you're right or wrong, it hurts. But, being unfaithful to God, God says, “I will have no pleasure in them.” (Malachi 1:10) Okay? I want to ask a question, today. Okay, does the Holy Spirit have enough freedom to produce goodness and faithfulness in our lives today? Are we selfish and self-seeking, consuming every spare dollar on our own selves, and never showing concern for the needs of those around us? Do others know you as someone who is unstable, undependable, and unreliable? If the answer is yes, to any of those questions, then that just tells us that we aren't letting the Holy Spirit live through our lives and work freely through our lives today. You know? If He had the freedom, if He had the freedom to operate in our lives, that fruit of goodness and faithfulness would be evident in me and you. Is that right? Amen. So, it's really, really up to you. It was preached two Sundays ago; God is a gentleman. You have the power to choose whatever you choose from, but when you're a Christian, it matters which one you choose. Let's pray.

Father, in the name of Jesus, thank You, Lord God, for the Word that You've brought before us this morning. Lord, You know there is a goodness and faithfulness in each one of us, today. And, God, I ask You, this morning, that You blossom them in every one of us. Help us to show the way, Lord God. Help us to help the needy, and the feed the poor, spiritually and physically, God. Make this, make this, our ministry, strong, and I pray that we, as a body of believers, to put our ministry into our lives, Lord God. And, God, bless this ministry like never before. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.