A D V E N T U R E S I N F A I T H

EXPECTING THE THE GOODNESS **GOODNESS OF** GOD IN YOUR LIFE by Jerry Savelle

OF GOD IN YOUR HOME by Carolyn Savelle IT'S HIS NATURE by Justin Bridges

THE GOODNESS OF GOD by Joe McCroskey **BELIEVING TO** SEE GOD'S GOODNESS by Eric Deaton

EXPECTING THE GOODNE DEG OD IN YOUR LIF

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PRAY THIS PRAYER

For those of you who don't know Jesus, would you like to know Him? All you need to do is pray the prayer below with a sincere and trusting heart, and you will be born again!

Dear God in Heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus to receive salvation and eternal life. I believe that Jesus is your Son. I believe that He died on the cross for my sins and that you raised Him from the dead. I receive Jesus now into my heart and make Him the Lord of my life. Jesus, come into my heart. I welcome you as my Lord and Savior. Father, I believe your word says that I am now saved. I confess with my mouth that I am saved and born again. I am now a child of God.

If you prayed this prayer, please tell us about it. We want to send you a free book. "You're Somebody Special To God," to get you started winning in life. Adventures in Faith is published quarterly by Heritage of Faith Christian Center aka Jerry Savelle Ministries International

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On the first day of this year, I received the following word from the Lord:

The year 2020 is now over and the new year has finally come, So, get ready for more and more rejoicing in 2021. The things I have planned will surely bring you great joy, Blessing after blessing, that's what I will deploy. Never have you witnessed such goodness, which you shall soon see. I'm pouring it out in abundance so that you will have greater victories. Things you've stood in faith for, which seemed would never come, *They'll manifest shortly and every* battle will be won. Keep your eyes on Me and your trust in My Word, Regardless of what others say, you'll not be disturbed. A year of great favor, that's what you'll testify to, For abundant overflow is surely coming to you!

continued ...





Some may say, "Well, Brother Jerry, things are just terrible everywhere. Haven't you been watching the news?" My answer is an emphatic NO—I keep my eyes focused on God's word. Regardless of what's going on around us, we have the right to believe to see the goodness of God poured out in our lives.

In a bold declaration of faith, the psalmist David said, *I would have fainted*, *unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart* (Psalm 27:13–14 KJV). The word *faint* as used in this psalm means *to sink into rejection; to lose courage; to become depressed; to yield to fear and worry.*

As long as we're in this world, we will face tribulations, tests, and trials, but Jesus said, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). So how do we overcome the problems we face in the world today? According to Jesus it is through our faith: "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says" (Mark 11:22–23). Other Bible versions of verse 22 say "Have the faith of God" and "Have the God-kind of faith."

God has issued His prophetic word for 2021, but it is up to us to take hold of it by faith if we want to see it come to pass in our lives. I've preached the Word of Faith for over fifty years, and the same principles of faith that worked for me when I began my ministry are just as relevant and powerful today. Let's take a look at five of these faith principles.



• Be Moved Only By God's Word. Jesus teaches that to be

moved, or influenced, only by our five physical senses is the same as being faithless. When the disciple Thomas learned of Jesus' resurrection, before he actually saw the Lord he said, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). Eight days later, when Jesus again appeared to the disciples, He said to Thomas:

"Reach hither thy finger and behold My hands, and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing" (verse 27 KJV).

In essence Thomas said, "If I can't see it, I won't believe it." A lot of

Christians today are like this. If they can't see, smell, feel, hear, or touch something, they actually choose not to believe. I used to be this way. Whatever I heard moved me; whatever I saw moved me; whatever I felt moved me—but then I learned something from Kenneth Copeland. He said, "I'm not moved by what I see, I'm not moved by what I hear, and I'm not moved by what I feel. I'm moved only by what I believe, and I believe the Word of God!"

I wrote those words in my notebook, and then added my own declaration: "I'm going to get to that place in my life where I'm not moved by what I see, hear, or feel. I will only be moved by what I believe, and I believe the Word of God."

So, when God says we've never witnessed such goodness as He will pour out in 2021, a year that will be marked by favor and abundant overflow, I will not be moved by my five physical senses—I choose instead to believe the Word of God!

2 Don't Be Moved By Appearances. The Bible says, *For we walk by faith, not by sight* (2 Corinthians 5:7). The *Amplified Bible* says *not by sight or appearance,* meaning *the outward or visible aspect of a thing or event*. In other words, we must never allow the appearance of someone or something to have final authority in our lives.

Let's look, for example, at a familiar story from the Old Testament. The Lord sent the prophet Samuel to the home of Jesse, where he was to anoint one of Jesse's eight sons as king—he just didn't know which one. The Lord spoke to Samuel, saying,

"For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

In other words, the Lord told Samuel not to be moved by what he saw. Had he been moved by outward appearance, he would have chosen the eldest, strongest son—and he would have missed God.

As it turned out, the Lord did not choose any of the seven, strong sons of Jesse first presented to Samuel. It was David, the youngest, who was still keeping the sheep, whom the Lord instructed Samuel to anoint, after which the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward (1 Samuel 16:13).

No matter how good or bad an individual or situation may appear, we must never be moved by appearances nor make decisions based on appearances. Our decisions must always be based upon the Word of God. **3** Natural Things Are Subject To Change. When facing a trial or challenge in life (and there are plenty out there right now), I oftentimes meditate 2 Corinthians 4:17–18:

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

I remember one day in particular when I meditated on these verses. I was a young preacher, eager to experience all God had for me, and as I focused on the words "For the things which are seen are temporary," I heard the Holy Spirit say, "To be temporary is to be subject to change." I can't tell you how many victories I've won based on that one revelation.

In other words, anything we can perceive with our five natural senses is subject to change. Jesus proved this truth in His ministry as people witnessed seemingly impossible situations change at His word: the blind saw, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, the deaf heard, and the dead were raised. That's the way Jesus lived then, and He still lives this way through us today. I've seen many of these same miracles in my ministry.

We must never base our beliefs on what we can see. Just because we don't yet see something doesn't mean it doesn't exist. There are a lot of things going on in the unseen realm of the spirit right now, which brings us to the next principle of faith.



See Through The Eyes Of Faith. According to the Word

of God, By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible (Hebrews 11:3). This is why it is important that we look at things in the natural through the eyes of faith.

Some may think that seeing through the eyes of faith is a New Testament principle only, but this is not true, as this story from the book of 2 Kings illustrates. The prophet Elisha and his servant were in a city where, during the night, the enemy had surrounded the Israelites.

And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (2 Kings 6:15–17).

Notice that the horses and chariots had been there all the time in the realm of the spirit, but the young man couldn't see them until the prophet prayed that his eyes be opened. No matter how bad circumstances are in the world today, there's still much God-directed activity going on in the realm of the spirit. We just need to see it through the eyes of faith.

My prayer for you—right now—is that the Lord will open your spiritual eyes to see all the wonderful things going on in the realm of the spirit about to manifest in the natural.



• **Call Things Into Existence.** We know by faith that things

we see were made by the unseen Word of God; therefore, through the same Word of God we can actually call things into existence.

The apostle Paul gives an example of this faith principle as he references God's words to Abraham:

Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed ... who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did (Romans 4:16–17).

Before Abraham's wife, Sarah, had even conceived, God said "*I have* made you a father of many nations." Notice the word made is past tense. God was calling those things that were not as though they were. This is how the God-kind of faith operates.

The Message translation says, Abraham was first named "father" and then became a father (Romans 4:18). God said it first, and then it happened. God is telling us, "*Tm about to pour* out My goodness on My people as never before." He said it first, and now it's about to happen; however, it is up to each one of us to call into existence for ourselves this promised outpouring of goodness in our own lives.

continued on next page ...

Abundance Is God's Plan

Contrary to present national and world circumstances, as well as what the media has to say, God has some wonderful things in store for His children. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God said, *I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for* (Jeremiah 29:11 MSG).

We can trust God to open our eyes to all He is doing in the spirit realm; however, we must first be fully convinced that His plan for us is abundance, not lack. Lack is under the curse, and according to Galatians 3:13, Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.

One of the blessings of obedience listed in Deuteronomy 28 is this: "And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods" (verse 11). We know God's people benefitted from this blessing because the Bible says, the children of Israel brought in abundance the first fruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything (2 Chronicles 31:5). Where did all that abundance come from? It came from God.

Not only is abundance God's plan, it's His very nature, as He proclaimed to Moses: And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6 KJV). The Amplified Bible says, "abundant in loving-kindness."

Let's look again at a portion of the word the Lord spoke to me on January 1: "Never have you witnessed such goodness, which you shall soon see. I'm pouring it out in abundance so that you will have greater victories." I want to call attention to the goodness of our God. The psalmist said, *You are good*, *and do good* (Psalms 119:68). The *Message* says, *You are good*, *and the source of good*.

The word source means the place where something begins, where it springs into being. It also means where something originates, where it is initiated. In other words, good comes from God because He is the source of good. James 1:17 (ASV) confirms this, saying, Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.

Satan does not bring good into our lives. He is not capable of doing so. Paul admonished believers to *Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good*

"Don't be moved by all that you see going on in our world today; rather, be moved by the Word of God."

Dr. Jerry Savelle

(Romans 12:9). To *abhor* means to *despise, loathe, detest, cast off, and reject.* We understand that lack is under the curse; therefore, it is to be despised. Lack is not a good thing, and it does not come from God.

To be clear, God loves the poor who are in need of all things. But living in lack is never God's will for anyone. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem mankind from poverty and lack. God wants to pour out His goodness on us in abundance so that we may experience greater victories than ever before.

Jesus distinguished His purpose from that of Satan's, saying, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Speaking of Jesus, Paul said, *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead* (Colossians 2:9), meaning all the goodness God has stored up to be poured out upon us.

I especially like the way The Message renders Psalms 21:4–7 as David speaks of all God has done for him. You filled his arms with gifts; you gave him a right royal welcome. He wanted a good life; you gave it to him, and then made it a long life as a bonus ... You pile blessings on him; you make him glad when you smile. Is it any wonder the king loves God?

According to the Word of God, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9). The psalmist declared, How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all (Psalms 31:19). In other words, God has established for us a trust fund full of good things we don't even know about - things that have not been seen or heard nor have entered into our hearts. God has planned this for you and me. We don't need these good things when we get to heaven-God intends us to have them now.

God said, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isaiah 46:10). The Message says, "I'm in this for the long haul, I'll do exactly what I set out to do," and then in verse 11 God says,



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I want to challenge you to cling to the principles of faith as never before. Don't be moved by all that you see going on in our world today; rather, be moved by the Word of God. Call those things that are not as though they are, in full expectation you will see the goodness of God in your life-this year!



JERRY SAVELLE

Since 1969, Dr. Savelle has been traveling the world teaching people how to win in life. He is the author of more than seventy books. He and his wife, Carolyn, also serve as founding pastors of Heritage of Faith Christian Center in Crowley, TX. WWW.JERRYSAVELLE.ORG

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In this CD series, Dr. Savelle shows us that not only is abundandance God's plan, it's His very nature. God is lavishly pouring out His abundant goodness on His people, so that we may experience greater victories than ever before. Allow the truth of His goodness to get deeply rooted in your spirit, and you will experience His goodness like never before. You will testify as David did in Psalm 35:27, "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour My righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, 'Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of His servant." You don't want to miss out on this uplifting message of hope and prosperity.

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THE GOODNESS OF GOD IN YOUR HOME

Our world is in serious trouble. No nation has been left untouched as people everywhere have been forced to deal with all-time high unemployment as a result of COVID-19, while others literally face starvation. People are troubled, confused beyond their ability to understand.

But there is yet good news. Those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ are neither subject to nor live under the dominion, rule, or influence of the world's system and its economy. David wrote these words about the Lord being his fortress in adversity: *"My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies"* (Psalm 31:15). In other words, the times in which we now live are subject to the authority of God's Word, the blood, and the name of Jesus spoken and acted upon by believers.

In a time when we desperately need to experience God's goodness in every aspect of our lives, I believe His goodness manifests first and foremost in the homes of believers. Let's see what Jesus has to say about those who trust in Him:

"

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall

(Matthew 7:24–27).

The King James version of verse 27 is especially descriptive, which says, *and great was the fall of it.*

A home built upon Jesus, our Rock, can withstand whatever the world throws at us; however, faith has to be the foundation of everything we do in our lives. The Bible says, *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that* *He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him* (Hebrews 11:6).

God Is Good

We oftentimes hear sermons that proclaim, "God is good," but what does this really mean? Though God's goodness manifests in His generosity to those who believe, this goodness certainly includes His infinitely generous attitude toward us. By His very nature He longs to bring joy and blessing to all who love Him. When we read that in the beginning, God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good (Genesis 1:31), we understand that the goodness He saw was, and is, essentially linked to the goodness of His character.

The Bible repeatedly presents goodness as a core quality of our Lord. When God revealed Himself to Moses, He proclaimed, "*The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth*" (Exodus 34:6). The definition of the word *abounding* is very plentiful; abundant; existing in large numbers or amounts. God is plentiful and abundant in His goodness to us.

When King David placed the ark of God in the tabernacle, he wrote a psalm of thanksgiving to the Lord, which said in part, *Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever* (1 Chronicles 16:34). To say God is good means He will always act in accordance with what is right, true, and good. Goodness is part of God's nature, and He cannot contradict His nature. Holiness and righteousness are also part of God's nature, which means He cannot do anything unholy or unrighteous. God is the standard of all that is good.

The fact that God is good means there is no evil in Him; therefore, His intentions and motivations in our behalf are always good. God always does what is right, and the outcome of His plan is always good. When Joseph's brothers set into motion an evil plan against him, God intervened with His own plan for the young man's life. Years later, when Joseph and his brothers were reunited, Joseph said to them, "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20).

The Word of God further teaches that God's goodness extends from His nature to everything He does: *You are good, and do good* (Psalm 119:68), and *For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations* (Psalm 100:5). God's goodness should lead to thankfulness on our part as we declare, "Our God is good, and His love endures forever."

Jerry once preached a sermon titled "Lord, Show Us Your Glory, Your Manifested Presence, Your Manifested Power, and Your Manifested Goodness." A lengthy title to be sure, but the point of the message was concise: when you desire God's presence more than anything else

continued on next page ...

Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, in whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

James 1:17 –

"

I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living

PSALM 27:13

Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth to all generations

PSALM 100:4-5

"

Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

PSALM 31:19-20

"

in your life, He will demonstrate His power to bring about His goodness in your behalf.

Bring the Word Home

The Bible says, A wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands (Proverbs 14:1). When I was a young wife with two little daughters and a husband just stepping into his ministry, this verse was very special to me—and it still is. I'm now a grandmother who has built her home on faith and the Word of God, and I want to share with you some of the Bible verses about God's goodness that I have declared over my own home and family:

• Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever (Psalm 23:6).

• The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works (Psalm 145:9).

• Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, in whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (James 1:17).

• I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living (Psalm 27:13). • I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness (Psalm 145:5–7).

• *He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD* (Psalm 33:5).

• Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! (Psalm 34:8).

• Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth to all generations (Psalm 100:4–5).

• Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness (Psalm 107:8–9).

We see in the Old Testament how the Israelites repeatedly rejected God's good law, forgot His goodness towards them, and were unfaithful to Him. According to Psalm 78:11, they forgot His works and His wonders that He had shown them. Ultimately, God's goodness is seen in His plan to redeem us from sin.

The gospel is the "good news." In His

goodness, God sent His Son to become the perfect and blameless sacrifice so that we could be forgiven of our sins. The Bible says God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (see 2 Peter 3:9), and that the goodness of God leads to repentance (see Romans 2:4).

I especially love the way Psalm 31:19–20 describes the goodness of God: *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! You shall hide them in the secret place of your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.*



CAROLYN SAVELLE Heard the voice of God calling her into the ministry at the age of eight. Her teachings have blessed thousands and made a profound impact on the lives of people throughout the world. Get more information about her minis-try at WWW.JERRYSAVELLE.ORG

- I am not moved by what I see.
- I am not moved by what I hear.
- I am not moved by what I feel.
- I am not subject to the times.
- I am surrounded on all sides by the goodness of God.
- I taste and see that the Lord is good.
- I know every good and perfect gift comes from above.
- I know the Lord is abounding in goodness towards me.
- I know the Lord has laid up goodness for me.
- I know that surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

And finally, I declare that you will experience the goodness of God in your home from this day forward!

JUR HOMES

can be this secret place, a peaceful pavilion where we experience the goodness God has laid up for us, extending to every area of our lives. I invite you now to join me in making these faith confessions:



14

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I love the Word of God! I love what it teaches, and I love what it reveals. I think to myself, Where would we be without the Word of God? If we didn't have God's Word written down and preserved, we would know nothing about salvation, about covenant, and the list goes on. It is in the Word of God that our minds can be renewed. It's because of the Word that our lives are truly transformed.

Both James and Peter wrote about the power of the Word, saying, *receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls* (James 1:21 KJV) and *desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby* (1 Peter 2:2 KJV). It is because of the Word of God that my life and yours can be changed from the inside out.

In his letter to the believers in Rome, Paul said, *For whatever things*

were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope (Romans 15:4 KJV). As I read this verse, I realize it has the ability to build hope within my mind and heart, which reveals it has the ability to produce an expectation for my future. This word deposited in my heart reveals to me the nature of God, the heart of the Father, and His plan for my life. As I get into the Word, my faith and expectation are established upon these three things: His goodness, His love, and His extraordinary purpose.

I believe the Twenty-Third Psalm reveals the heart, nature, and purpose of the Father: *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want* (verse 1). Think about this: Our God, who is our shepherd, wants us to come into a place where we shall not want, where we shall not lack any good thing. Therefore, we can expect 2021 to be a year where we see abundant overflow because the Lord, our shepherd, is directing our paths. He is directing our steps into abundance—after all, it's His nature. I've come to the place where I know that I know He is directing me every day.

As we continue to look at the nature of the shepherd in the Twenty-Third Psalm, we see that, *He makes me to lie down in green pastures* (verse 2), which means He causes us to be refreshed in places where there's more than enough (abundant overflow). We also read that *He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake* (verses 2–3).

In reality, the goodness of the shepherd will take care of the sheep.



This is the Father's heart toward you and me. Have an expectation that the Father will lead you in places where you see His goodness in every area of your life. The goodness of the Father is for any and every season.

Though we may walk through negative circumstances, we can be assured by these words: *Yea, though I* walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me (Psalm 23:4). This God, who is good, is with us, and He says the shepherd's rod and staff will comfort us. In other words, the goodness of God is working in every season that we might find ourselves.

Dr. Savelle recently shared a Bible truth based on Psalm 31:19. He said the goodness of God has been wrought for you and me and has been laid up for you and me. We see this same goodness expressed in Psalm 23:5, which says, *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs* *over.* The goodness of God is at work even in the presence of our enemies. Let's expect this goodness every day of our lives. Let's expect Him to make ready, to prepare, and to bring about His goodness.

When I envision Psalm 23:5, I enjoy seeing the enemy sit by and watch as I receive everything that my shepherd has made available for me. I expect His goodness today, and I expect it in every season.

I especially like the conclusion of the Twenty-Third Psalm: *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever* (verse 6). I want to encourage you today to expect His goodness and mercy to go before you and follow you all the days of your life. Why? Simply because it's His nature. I believe that when you choose to dwell in the house of the Lord and choose to make Him your resting place, you will see abundant overflow in 2021.

No matter where you find yourself

today as you read this article, know that God is good, and He can do extraordinary things. The Psalmist said, *Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings* (Psalm 107:31, 35 KJV).

Believe and expect that today whatever wilderness you may be in— God's goodness can, and will, turn it around.



JUSTIN BRIDGES Pastor Justin Bridges and his wife Annette are Senior Pastors of Heritage of Faith Christian Center in Crowley, TX.



MGOODNESS OF GOD

When mywife, Joyce, and I rededicated our lives to the Lord, we lived in Henryetta, Oklahoma. We immediately began to look for a good church. Joyce was working at a hair salon, and I was the VP of a bank. We sought the Lord and felt like He directed us to a Word of Faith church; however, many people told us not to go there. In our social circles, that church was not popular. My being the VP of the bank back then meant those opinions mattered. We obeyed God and went anyway.

From the beginning, God used that pastor and that church to teach us how to hear God, follow God, and depend on God in everything—spirit, soul, and body. We had prayer meetings on Tuesday nights, and the pastor would come around to each one of us and personally teach us how to pray, how to hear God, and how to respond. That laid a foundation for learning how God would bless us through seeking Him. Some of the scriptures the pastor gave me have become key scriptures that I stand on and use today. One of them was Matthew 6:32–34: For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow. That became a key scripture to us because it changed how we made decisions. We went from reasoning it out to asking God what to do.

One night at the prayer meeting, God told me we would go to work for a ministry. I was skeptical at first because I was a successful banker and number three at the bank. Also, Joyce had a successful beauty shop, and I had a successful gun shop. All three were lucrative. Money is not why we came into the kingdom of God. So, when God told me we would work for a ministry, all the reasoning began to play through my mind of why we couldn't do it.

If I was going to leave my bank for another bank, or a promotion at another bank, the first thing I would talk to a potential new employer about would be the benefits they offered, salary, vacation, and why I should come there. Those are the things we weigh and reason in our heads. But when God calls us and tells us where to go, we don't have to reason because He has already taken care of everything as mentioned in the Matthew 6 scripture. However, because we are so often trained in the natural things and not the supernatural, the known benefits become the things we reason.

Our pastor had taught us that we have to be a hearer

and a doer of the Word. If we hear the Word, we have to do the Word. I began to meditate on that truth and renew my mind to the fact that we would go to work for a ministry and God would take care of us. I prepared myself for receiving a call from a ministry, or to call a ministry, without knowing the details or the benefits. My one concern was knowing where God wanted us.

Joyce and I prayed and considered three ministries for which we could work. We were familiar with two of the ministries because they were in the area where we lived. Our pastor had taken us to meetings at both of those ministries. We loved both of those ministries and would have been happy to serve at either. I felt confident that either of them would appreciate having me. One of them even had a Bible school that Joyce would attend, and we had saved the money for her to do that. Our third option was a cousin who had a ministry-that cousin's name was Dr. Jerry Savelle. I knew he needed someone to fill a

position, but he had not asked me to come or even suggested it. We had attended a couple of seminars he had done and had enjoyed them. The only strike against any of these ministries was against the third. That strike was working with kinfolk. I had experienced some negative situations working with kinfolk, so my natural leaning was to choose one of the other two. However, we took the matter to prayer, and God told us that we would go to work for Jerry Savelle.

Joyce and I heard God, and according to Deuteronomy 28:1– 2, if you hear God and do what He says, all these blessing will come upon you and overtake you. I found the same thing in John 10:3–5, which says God's children hear His voice, He will lead and guide them, and the voice of the adversary they will not follow. We made the decision we were moving to Texas; however, there was only one problem. We didn't have an invitation.

To activate our faith, we went back to the Bible and did something that made no sense. Though we hadn't been asked to join the ministry, each time the phone rang, before we picked it up, we would say, "Yes, Brother Jerry, we're coming to Texas and will work for Jerry Savelle Ministries."

Our pastor had taught us that we have to be a hearer and a doer of the Word. If we hear the Word, we have to do the Word.

Even our children spoke those words before answering the phone. Of course, we would answer the phone and it wouldn't be Brother Jerry. But one day, it was Brother Jerry. He said, "Joe, I need you to come. You have police experience and business experience that could help us."

Joyce and I prayed again, asking God what to do about our house and businesses. The Lord told us not to go to Texas until we were debt free. Now we knew *what* and *where* and *when*, but we still had other instructions to carry out. The Lord told us He would create funds to come in that were over and above our salaries to help pay-off the debt. We owed quite a bit, but little by little, it all came in. Soon we had extra in the bank and found a brandnew house in Texas. God is good.

Right before we moved, there were things that tried to keep us from going to Texas. The adversary tried to keep us from going because our call was to come. We kept hold of the Word and made the move.

Throughout the entire moving process, Brother Jerry and I had never discussed salary, benefits, or anything along those lines. Normally, I would have gotten all those details

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before moving or agreeing to move. I didn't this time because of "seek first the kingdom of God and God will add everything." Hear God and do what He says, and the blessings are assured. And that was our experience.

Once on staff at JSMI, my job was to oversee the business end of the ministry. Due to my experience in business, the job was not difficult for me. Within a short time, Brother Jerry came to me and asked me to be over the entire ministry. Things came up that I did not know how to handle, and I would have to go to God. I prayed. I prayed in the Spirit. I would hear from God and do as He instructed, and sometimes it would change the whole dynamic of what we had been doing. It didn't matter whether I was involved in marketing or working with people out on the road, I gained expertise by going to God.

No matter what your calling is, God will provide everything you need to do it, beginning with wisdom and knowledge and then followed by everything else. If you are going through hardships in what you are called to do, I can tell you through personal experience that God will provide all that you need, whether it is finances, wisdom, patience, whatever the need may be. God's provision might not be on your time schedule, but it will come.

Every time I obeyed God and did what He asked, the blessings came with the obedience. Many times, the increase would come spiritually. People may think spiritual increase has nothing to do with finances; however, it has everything to do with them. When we got the spiritual, everything else came to be. Whether personally or vocationally, whenever we have obeyed God, increase came.

Joyce and I also began to believe for

the same favor the ministry operated in to come into our personal lives. Whether buying a house or a car, we believed for favor. We have learned that we can flow under the same favor that Brother Jerry flows in because of our association. Being in association with the right people brings in the goodness of God. I encourage you to get in association with whom God is leading you.

Our ministry life was not always perfect, a utopia or a bubble that kept us protected from going through anything. We did go through difficult things, but God always brought us out. We clung to 2 Thessalonians 1:11, which assured us that God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power. We knew our calling, so we stuck with it believing for and expecting God's goodness and power. We simply stood in faith that, by doing our part and obeying God, He would take care of us. If we didn't know how to do our part, we would seek the kingdom through prayer, fasting, and following the Holy Spirit.

That is how Joyce and I started our walk of faith. There were times when I would ask Brother Jerry questions concerning the budget, and his response would be that God would provide. That idea was foreign to me at the beginning. I had to take the Word and live by faith, then I saw it come to pass.

A day came when Brother Jerry asked me to begin to travel with him and oversee the international ministry. I never imagined I would have to travel. Brother Jerry explained that he needed someone who knew business and how to hear from the Holy Spirit. My first trip was to Africa. When he first asked me to go, I said no. He asked me to pray about it, and when I did, the Lord directed me to my call to serve Dr. Jerry and Carolyn Savelle. Therefore, I made a trip to Africa. Traveling to Africa has become one of the things I have loved the most, and I have been doing it now for over 40 years.

Because of our obedience to trust God and to come work for Jerry Savelle Ministries, God has blessed us in so many ways, ways we could never imagine. When we are in God's perfect will, that is what happens. Each of us, as we do what we hear, should expect the goodness of God to manifest. Every time Joyce and I made a change that God said to make, the blessings came.

Through pandemics and through every challenge in foreign nations, past and present, every one of our JSMI offices has been successful. People always ask us how we do it, and the answer always comes back to "But God!" When we hear Him and do what He says, it makes all the difference. We are children of God, in covenant with Him. We will always *expect the goodness of God*.



REV. JOSEPH D. MCCROSKEY Has served for the past forty years as International Director for Jerry Savelle Ministries International. Get more information at WWW.JERRYSAVELLE.ORG

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[What, what would have become of me] had I not believed that I would see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living! Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord. (Psalm 27:13, 14 AMPC)

If you are reading this article, it means you are in the land of the living and you qualify for God's goodness in your life. Before we look at the above verse closer, let's go back to Exodus.

And God said, I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim My name, THE LORD, before you; for I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy and loving-kindness on whom I will show mercy and lovingkindness (Exodus 33:19 AMPC).

In this passage, we see in the same statement in which God talks about His goodness, He also mentions His mercy. There are many scriptures in the Bible where God's goodness is connected with His mercy. From the passage above, it is obvious to me that God is saying there is no qualification for the mercy of God. What a simple, yet profound statement. Mercy is a part of who God is. He shows us His mercy because of His love for us. He is love.

But God – so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us (Ephesians 2:4 AMPC).

When my wife and I lived in Michigan, our church had a prison ministry. Over the course of eighteen years of going into the prison, you get to know the inmates. One man in particular, Wayne, was in prison for life. He had been in prison for over thirty years but always believed that one day he would be released. God had dramatically changed Wayne's life, and he had gone from a hardened criminal to a tender-hearted believer of Jesus Christ.

Wayne had just been denied again for parole, but he wasn't shaken or moved by this disappointment. He stayed in faith. He never quit. Several months later he was called in by the parole board unexpectedly. One man on the parole board let him know that he was the reason Wayne did not get paroled the last time, but then he said he was also the reason why the board called Wayne in again. The board member went on to explain that since they had denied Wayne, he could not get Wayne out of his head. He would lie down night after night and see a picture of Wayne's face. He tried to shake it off but couldn't. He knew he had to do something, so he arranged to have Wayne come before the parole board again. Wayne was released! He is now married and a faithful servant in his church.

What was this? God showing His goodness and His mercy in Wayne's behalf. God was working for him behind the scenes all the time, and He will do the same for you!

So then [God's gift] is not a question of human will and human effort,



but of God's mercy. [It depends not on one's own willingness nor on his strenuous exertion as in running a race, but on God's having mercy on Him] (Romans 9:16 AMPC).

God wants the best life for you and me. It's His desire that you prosper and succeed. It's His desire that you are healthy and strong. It's His desire that you experience supernatural joy and peace. It's His desire that your relationships are restored with your children or your parents. His desires

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BELIEVING TO SEE GOD'S GOODNESS

do not change where His goodness and mercy are concerned. His desire is the same even when you blow it.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in mercy and lovingkindness [goodness]. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works [the entirety of things created] (Psalm 145:8, 9 AMPC).

For You, O Lord, are good, and ready to forgive [our trespasses, sending them away, letting them go completely and forever]; and You are abundant in mercy and loving-kindness [goodness] to all those who call upon You (Psalm 86:5 AMPC).

If we are to expect God's goodness in our lives, then we must understand that it is in God's nature to be merciful, good, and kind to us. What more could God have done to show His love for us than to send His own Son, Jesus, to die for our sins? Therefore, is there anything He would refuse to do for us now? (See Romans 8:32.)

So, let's go back to our beginning scripture: [What, what would have become of me] had I not believed that I would see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living! Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord (Psalm 27:13–14 AMPC).

We see that David, who wrote this Psalm, was saying that he believed he would see the Lord's goodness. He goes on to say wait on the Lord. In other words, don't quit. Expect. Pay attention. God is working! Never grow weary of waiting to see the goodness of the Lord.

Many times, what we see going on around us will change when we change what we see. According to 2 Corinthians 4:18, we don't look at the things that can be seen, which are temporary. Whatever we are going through right now can change in a moment. We must get our eyes off of our natural circumstances and fix our eyes on Him. Whatever is going on in the world right now is temporary! It can change in a moment.

I have a question for you. Can you see any evidence of God's goodness in your life? It's all around you every second, every minute, every hour of every day. Satan wants to distract you with all the bad and get you to focus on that. When you get focused on all the negative things and you begin to talk about them incessantly, the negative will become all you see.

Why are you cast down, O my inner self? And why should you moan over me and be disquieted within me? Hope in God and wait expectantly for Him, for I shall yet praise Him, my Help and my God...therefore will I remember thee (Psalms 42:5-6 AMPC).

In the verse above, David gives us two big keys to changing our perspective of what we see. He says for I shall yet *praise* the Lord and remember what God has done. So instead of letting his circumstance speak to him, David went on the offense and spoke to himself about the goodness of God. If you read Psalm 103, this is what David was doing.

While on a trip to Kenya, I heard a congregation chant a familiar saying about God. They said out loud, "God is good. All the time. And all the time. God is good." Then they added this statement that they shouted all together as a proclamation, "That's His nature. WOW!" I loved the WOW part. It's the fact that God's goodness is just a part of His DNA and nature. Why would anyone not want to be a part of

the kingdom of God?

How great is Your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear, revere and worship You, which you have wrought for those who trust and take refuge in You before the sons of men! (Psalm 31:19).

I want to encourage you today to be like our fathers in the faith and not be moved by what you see. Instead, change what you see through your faith in God. Have faith in God! And wait on Him and expect Him to do something good in your life. Oral Roberts used to say, "Something good is going to happen to you today." With that attitude, you will surely see the goodness of God manifest in your life.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever (Psalm 23:6).

Church, that's talking about you and me. It is a sure thing that God's goodness and mercy is following us all of our days. Therefore, we can expect it, speak it, and praise God for it!



ERIC DEATON

Eric is the Director of Missions for Heritage of Faith Christian Center. He and his wife Nikki have been married for 25 years. Get more information at WWW.JERRYSAVELLE.ORG

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teaching SCHEDULE

APRIL 14 - 15 World Harvest Chruch of Paducah W. Paducah, KY Time: 7:00 pm Address: 3250 Steele Rd. Phone: 270-442-8949

MAY 1 - 2 Word of Faith Family Chruch Lander, WY Time: May 1 - 6:30pm May 2 - 9:30 am & 6:00pm Brush Dr. NE Address: 515 S. 2nd St. Phone: 307-332-8707

JUNE 13 **Homestead Church** Homestead, FL Time: 11:00 am Address: 211 N. Krome Ave. Phone: 305-910-4107

APRIL 17-18 Word of Life Worship Center Centerville, GA Time: 4/17 - 6:00pm 4/18 - 10:30pm Address: 801 Carl Vinson Pkwy. Phone: 478-922-5153

JUNE 6 The House Palm Bay, FL Time: 9:00am & 11:00 am Address: 1520 Bottle Phone: 321-952-5725

JUNE 22 - 27

Chariots of Light

California Tour

APRIL 25 **Firebaugh Faith Fellowship** Firebaugh, CA Time: 6:00 pm Address: 355 N. Street Phone: 559-659-2571

JUNE 6 - 7 New Way Church Palm Coast, FL Time: 6:45 nightly Address: 293 Old Moody Blvd. Phone: 386-437-9575 APRIL 25 WCBCI Visalia, CA Time: 10:00 am Address: 3737 W. Walnut Ave. Phone: 559-732-4791

JUNE 9 - 11 Hosanna Homestead Church Caguas, Puerto Rico Time: 7:30 nightly Address: Calle Goyco#61 Piso 4 (4th floor) Phone: 305-910-4107

Times and dates are subject to change. Please check our website at www.jerrysavelle.org for any up-to-date changes to Dr. Savelle's schedule.

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I heard you preach about supernatural increase and I came into agreement with your message. I then sowed \$3,000 towards supernatural increase in my life. In December of 2020, I was given a house worth \$235,000 and in January of 2021 I was given a surprise deposit of \$30,000 in my checking account! Thank you so much for sharing this word and believe with me as I stretch my faith to sow even more into your ministry! - Eva, FL

Back in June of 2020, I was laid off but I was provided a very generous severance package. I saved the money back and paid on some credit but didn't know what to do with it. I listened to Brother Jerry's message "Smite Your Debt" from the 2020 Southwest Believer's Convention and I was inspired. I sowed a seed and soon after the Lord showed me how to use the remaining severance money I had to pay off my mortgage! I'm on my way to rapid debt freedom! - Lisa, TX

In 2015, we moved to North Carolina. I thought I was being led by God but we soon fell into major distress. We had issues even paying our rent and bills. It was to the point our car was being repossessed. We didn't quit. We believed that God would turn things around. We received your prophecy for supernatural increase in 2020. We sowed seeds towards it, and despite everything that happened in 2020, we had the best financial year we've seen in 31 years of marriage! Praise God! - Randall, NC

To become a partner or get more information about Jerry Savelle Ministries International go to www.jerrysavelle.org/partnership or call 1-866-576-4872.