**The LORD is Good.**

*By Pastor Brenda Nabitula*

At the beginning of this year, The Lord gave us a Word that “this year 2022, we will experience his goodness in an extraordinary, superabundant, supernatural, unfathomable way, way beyond our imagination”. It is a great word, filled with promise and hope, and it says to me that The Lord has prepared Himself or has set Himself to release His goodness to me way beyond anything I can imagine, in a way that will in all likelihood blow away my mind. So, I must be ready, expectant, anticipating and looking out for it. I must position myself to receive this goodness, it must not pass by me, but so must you. You should be well positioned to partake of this goodness.

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good”. ***Psalms 34:8 –*** *This Year’s 2022/23 Theme*

When the year started, what I could see with my natural eye was despair, defeat, nothing was moving as I wanted it to, doors seemed to be closing in some aspects, and it was pretty easy for me to let go of this wonderful promise, thinking that it is probably not for me, and allow myself to be swallowed up by the gloominess of the situation. But I cried out to the Lord, I reminded Him of His promise of unimaginable goodness to us, and by His mercy He led me to study and meditate on His goodness from His word, so I did. As I studied and mediated, I discovered that;

1. **The Lord is good**, it’s His nature. Goodness simply flows out of Him. He is good because of His love for us. Moses, in the book of exodus asked to see the glory of The Lord, and the Lord responded by saying, “I will cause all of my goodness to pass in front of you”. In other words, I will cause “all of me” to pass in front of you, ***Exodus 34:6****.* This shows us that God in his nature, He is good.

***1 Chronicles 16:34,”*** *give thanks to The Lord for He is good, His love endures forever”.*

***Ezra 3:11****, “He is good, His love towards Israel endures forever”*

***Psalm 100:5,*** *“The Lord is good, His love endures forever. His faithfulness continues throughout all generations”.*

If I simply hang out around Him, I will definitely partake of His goodness.

The Lord will be good to me because that is who He is.

1. **Good flows out of Him**. The Lord does good because that is who He is. Everything He does is good. He is good to all that He has made; he gives good gifts to His people. Now if He is good to all why should I or you be an exception? He will be good to me too. Halleluya.

***Psalms 107: 8-9****, “Let them give thanks to The Lord for His unfailing love, and His wonderful deeds for mankind. For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with* ***good*** *things”.*

***James 1: 17****,” every good and perfect gift is from heaven, coming down from the Father of lights….”*

***Psalms 145: 9****, “The Lord is good to all, he is compassionate on all He has made”.* There is no one on earth who does not qualify for the goodness of the Lord. It does not matter where you have been, or what you have done, The Lord will still be good to you. So come receive His goodness*.*

***Psalms 119: 68****, “You are good, what you do is good”.*

1. **The goodness of The Lord will never come to an end**. There will never be a time when He stops being good to us, and that is because His love for us endures forever. So, we can always count on Him to be good to us in any situation, and at all times.

*Psalms 23: 6, “goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life”.*

*Psalm 100:5, “The Lord is good, His love endures forever. His faithfulness continues throughout all generations”.*

1. **The goodness of the Lord is and can be experienced here on earth**. It is not for us to go through tough times and struggles while on earth, waiting for good to happen to us when we get to heaven, no that is not it. He has poured out His goodness to us here and now, we can experience it now, while still on the earth.

***Psalm 27:13****, “I remain confident of this: that I will see the goodness of The Lord in this land of the living”.*

***Psalm 33:5****, “…the earth is full of the His unfailing love”.* If the earth is full of the unfailing love of The Lord, then it is full of the goodness of The Lord. To whom does this goodness come? Is it not to mankind? While here on earth we can taste and see and be full of the goodness of The Lord.

***Psalm 104:28****,” when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things”* again this happens while here on earth, not in heaven after we have passed on.

1. **We can draw from His goodness**. It is like a well to which we can go and drink from. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. ***Psalms 69:16****, “answer me out of the goodness of your love, in your great mercy turn to me”.*

We have seen that The Lord is good, He does good, He is good to all, and He has promised to be abundantly good to us this year. But just like all things that come to us in life, we must position ourselves to experience this goodness, we must look out for it, anticipate and expect it, pray for it and most importantly set our hearts to partake of it. We should as the psalmist says, reach out and have a taste of it.

A falling tree can’t harm someone who is not in its way, or one cannot get wet when it is raining unless they go out in the rain, we must make a deliberate effort to taste the goodness of The Lord.

What is this deliberate effort we must do to taste the goodness of the Lord?

1. He gives good gifts to those who ASK Him. ***Mark 7:11***. We should ask for good things, the Father loves us, He will give them to us. Be bold enough to ask for the good stuff, He will give them to you.
2. To those who FEAR Him, He has stored up a lot of goodness. Those who fear Him lack nothing. ***Psalm 31:19, Psalm 34:9***

The fear of the Lord does not happen automatically, it is learned, ***Psalm 34:11-14.*** If it can be learnt then, let us learn it so that we can be positioned to partake of the goodness of The Lord.

1. Those who SEEK the Lord, lack nothing good. In other words, good comes to those who seek Him. ***Psalm 34:10, Psalm 14:2***
2. Take REFUGE in the Lord. Let Him be your safe place, your go to place in all kinds of situations. Those who take refuge in The Lord, are the ones that will see and taste the goodness of the Lord. ***Psalm 31:19, Psalm 34:8***

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good”.

In conclusion, this year 2022, we can experience an abundant goodness of the Lord, because he has promised it. It says in ***Psalms 145:13***, that “The Lord is faithful to His promises”, and He watches over His word to perform it, ***Jeremiah 1:12,* Isaiah 55: 11**

To position ourselves to receive and partake of this goodness, we are going to be those who fear The Lord, those who seek Him and put our trust in Him, those who take refuge in Him, and we are going to learn to ask for the good things. Good is stored up for those who fear the Lord, let us ask for it, let us get it out of the store.

Now that I know all this truth, I am hopeful and expectant. I know that I know that in this year I will surely see the goodness of The Lord. I pray that you will too. It is no longer gloomy for me because I have light on my path now. Good will surely come to me, and it is available to you too.

If you would like to receive Jesus in your heart and make Him The Lord of your life, please say this prayer with me.

Lord Jesus, thank you for dying for me and reconciling me to My Father in Heaven, I now receive you in my heart and make you The Lord of my life, Amen.

Have a blessed 2022, be full of the goodness of the Lord, let it not pass by you or remain in the store. Deplete that store of God’s goodness. Oh, taste and see that The Lord is good.

With love,

**Pastor Brenda Nabitula.**