

# FAITH ADD +ONS

Small Group Notes  
#3 "Add Goodness"  
February 11, 2018  
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2 Peter 1:5-7

**INTRODUCTION:** This study will focus on the concept of "goodness" as it relates to the nature of God and how we can begin to mature our faith to more adequately reflect that goodness.

## **Key verses 2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

1. COMMENT: When Peter was writing the words "add to your faith" his intent was not that you should "add on" to your faith the attributes of goodness etc. like you would add on fancy parts to a car to dress it up. The words "add on" really mean to "flow from"...or said this way: from your faith let goodness emerge, from your faith let knowledge rise, or from your faith let goodness blossom.

a. In light of this understanding, what does the following statement mean to you? How could this statement bring you hope?

*"The seed of faith given to you by God contains everything you need to live a mature Christian life."*

## **GOODNESS**

2. COMMENT: Goodness is the essence of God's nature. God is good; he is always good; he can never be not good. God acts in a manner that is good in every situation.

a. What do the following verses tell you about God?

Psalm 119:68 (NIV)

Psalm 145:9 (NIV)

b. In what ways is God good to everyone, whether they know it or not?

3. READ: James 1:17 (NIV)

a. Why is it important that God "does not change like shifting shadows"?

4. DISCUSS: *"The goodness of God is defined as moral excellence: to do what is right without ulterior motive."*

a. Explain how God's motives could always be right.

b. How does knowing that God's motives are always right bring you comfort or hope?

5. READ: John 3:16-17

a. How is God's goodness demonstrated in Jesus Christ?

6. READ: Matthew 19:16-22 (NIV)
- Explain how this story is an illustration of a person defining their life by external values while God defines us by internal values.
  - How is this story about “goodness”?
  - Why do you think the man went away sad?
  - Why do you think some Christians ‘go away sad’?

7. DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS: God always acts from his core nature, that nature being goodness. That means God’s motives are always right. If we are going to grow in Christ-like character then it follows that our motives must be right before we call any action good. This means our central and all-influencing motive is loving God and regarding His will in all things. It means that the “good person” is one in whom righteousness (right doing) flows from inward devotion and love toward God. From these two elements, love toward God and goodness, godly character is formed. It is the seed of God’s goodness in our faith that transforms our motives and allows us to be good and to do good.

8. READ: Romans 12:21 (NIV)
- In what ways can developing the godly character of goodness help us overcome evil?

**FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:** The key to developing the character of goodness rests on our internal motives for any action or attitude. This week ask God to reveal to you your true motives behind any actions or attitudes you express. Are you acting out of fear, the need for recognition, because it makes you feel good, or some other motive like revenge, anger, disappointment? Or are you acting out of love and according to God’s will as you understand it? Ask God to begin to purify your motives, give you a clean heart and a desire to grow your faith in this area of goodness. Read your bible, take time to pray, dialogue with other believers, attend worship, nurture the seed of faith that God has so graciously planted within you.

***“Invest in character and it will see you through good times and bad. Invest in ego, and it is like building a house on quicksand.”*** Matthew Kelly

## **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Note to leaders:** feel free to adapt this study to suit your group. It is not necessary to go through the study line by line-although you may wish to do so. You may also ask your group what they felt was the part of the message that stood out to them on Sunday, as a starting point for your lesson. You may pick a bible verse to focus your group time around or a statement or comment in the notes. Our desire is for you and your group to have a meaningful experience in discussion and study of God’s word. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve the study notes please let me know [jmahood@allnationschurch.ca](mailto:jmahood@allnationschurch.ca)