Celebrate the Goodness of God

We confess—there is nothing greater than You, God, nothing mightier than Your awesome works. I will tell of Your greatness as long as I have breath. The news of Your rich goodness is no secret—Your people love to recall it and sing songs of joy to celebrate Your righteousness. (Psalm 145:6-7 VOICE)

How easy it is to overlook the goodness of God during seasons of grief, illness, waiting, and loss! Still, we can trust that God's goodness does not change, even when we fail to notice it. He is good when we are joyful, *and* He is good when we are devastated. We can choose to celebrate God's goodness because it is rooted in His unchanging character, not in our circumstances.

NOTICING GOD'S GOODNESS

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart ... (Psalm 138:1)

What can you give thanks for today?

I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. (Psalm 145:5)

What small miracle can you celebrate?

Let the heavens rejoice. Let the earth celebrate. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it. Let the fields be overjoyed, and everything that is in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy ... (Psalm 96:11-12)

How is God's creation calling you to join in the song of joy?

To celebrate means to:

- appreciate
- exalt
- extol
- delight in
- give thanks for
- glorify
- hold in awe
- honor
- magnify
- make merry
- praise
- rejoice
- revere
- treasure
- worship

Which synonym do you experience most often?

Which one feels most difficult?

Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song. By grace we learn to sing, and in glory we continue to sing ... now we begin to bless the name of the Lord. (Charles Spurgeon)

Does music move your heart toward God?

What is your favorite hymn or worship song?

How has God comforted or strengthened you through music?

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders. (1 Chronicles 16:9)

When has the wonder of creation left you speechless or in awe?

The music of the Gospel leads us home. (Frederick W. Faber)

Which song instantly reminds you of heaven?

Which song draws your heart toward God?

WE ARE CONDUITS OF GOD'S GOODNESS

But the fruit of the Spirit is ... goodness ... (Galatians 5:22)

Through His Spirit, God has placed His goodness *in us*, so that we might be conduits of His goodness in the world. *We are the salt of the earth and a light shining for others to see.* (Matthew 5:13-14 paraphrased)

Who can you share the goodness of God with today?

How can you become a light for others?

How can you encourage others to delight in God's creativity?

Who can you offer a sweet kindness today?

CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS CULTIVATES JOY

I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]. (John 10:10 AMP)

God wants so much more for us than making it through the day. He delights in giving us life in abundance, goodness in abundance, love in abundance. When we celebrate His goodness, we live with our eyes on Him, our hearts open to Him, and our lives as salt and light in this sin-darkened world.

... the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. (Psalm 33:5)

As we receive God's goodness with grateful hearts and reflect it through our lives, we become living songs of His love to a world in need of hope.