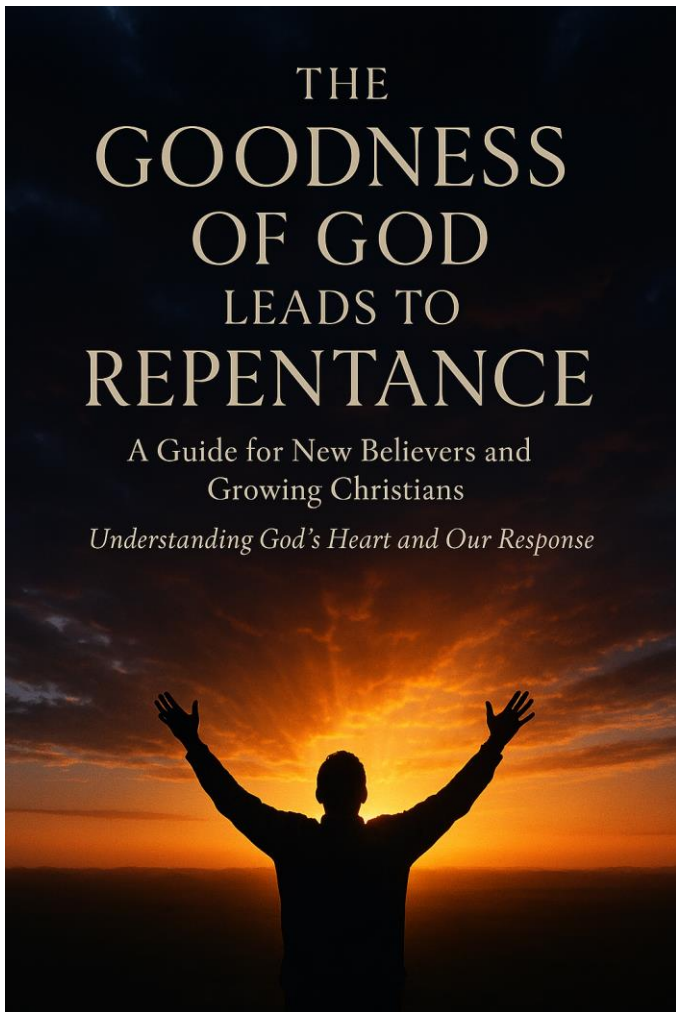


THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS TO REPENTANCE

A Guide for New Believers and
Growing Christians

Understanding God's Heart and Our Response



The Goodness of God Leads to Repentance

A Guide for New Believers and Growing Christians

Understanding God's Heart and Our Response

Table of Contents

Introduction: A Journey of Discovery

Chapter 1: Who Is God?

- Understanding God's True Nature
- Beyond Anger and Wrath
- The Heart of the Father

Chapter 2: What Does It Mean That God Is Good?

- Defining Divine Goodness
- Biblical Examples of God's Goodness
- How God's Goodness Affects You

Chapter 3: The True Meaning of Repentance

- More Than Saying Sorry
- A Change of Heart, Not Just Mind
- The Heart of Stone vs. Heart of Flesh

Chapter 4: The Three C's of True Repentance

- Conviction: When God Draws Your Heart
- Conversion: The Moment of Change
- Commitment: Living the New Life

Chapter 5: Saul's Story - A Picture of God's Goodness

- From Persecutor to Apostle
- Kicking Against the Truth
- When Jesus Intervenes

Chapter 6: Living in Gratitude

- Never Taking God's Goodness for Granted
- A Lifestyle of Thanksgiving
- Seeing God's Unseen Hand

Chapter 7: Growing in Grace

- Repentance as a Continuing Journey
- Choosing God's Face, Not Just His Hand
- Your Divine Purpose

Conclusion: You're Response Today

Introduction: A Journey of Discovery

Welcome to a journey of discovering who God really is and what He desires for your life. If you're a new believer, someone struggling in your faith, or simply seeking to understand God's heart better, this book is for you.

Many people have a distorted view of God. They see Him as angry, harsh, and waiting to punish. But what if I told you that the very thing that leads us to change our lives isn't God's anger, but His incredible goodness? This truth can revolutionize your relationship with God and transform how you live.

Let's explore together what "the goodness of God leads to repentance" really means.

Chapter 1: Who Is God?

The Corrupted Image

Throughout history, people have painted a picture of God as primarily angry and wrathful. We've been taught to fear Him in the wrong way, to see Him as someone who is constantly disappointed in us and ready to strike us down for our failures.

But this image is corrupted. It's not who God really is.

Jesus Reveals the Father's Heart

When Jesus came to earth, He came with a specific mission: to fulfil the plan and purpose of God through his death on the cross. But he also came to show us what the Father is really like. The Bible tells us that Jesus was "the express image of the Father." Every act of compassion, every moment of grace, every healing touch—all revealed God's true heart.

When Jesus welcomed children, forgave sinners, and showed mercy to the broken, He was showing us the Father's heart. When He wept over Jerusalem or fed the hungry crowds, we were seeing God's true nature.

God's True Nature

So what is God really like? The Bible gives us a beautiful description in Exodus 34:6:

"The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth."

Notice the order: merciful, gracious, patient, and abundant in goodness. This is who your heavenly Father is.

He is:

- **Holy** - completely pure and perfect
- **Righteous** - always doing what is right
- **Good** - His very nature is goodness itself
- **Loving** - His love never fails or changes
- **Patient** - He doesn't give up on you

A Personal Invitation

The psalmist invites us to discover this for ourselves: "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" (Psalm 34:8).

God isn't asking you to fear Him as a harsh judge. He's inviting you to taste and see His goodness for yourself. This is where true faith begins—not in fear, but in discovering how incredibly good God is to you.

Chapter 2: What Does It Mean That God Is Good?

Goodness Beyond Human Understanding

When we say God is good, we're not talking about goodness as humans understand it. God's goodness goes far beyond being nice or pleasant. His goodness is:

- **Perfect** - without any flaw or shadow
- **Consistent** - He's the same yesterday, today, and forever
- **Active** - His goodness isn't passive; it's constantly working for your benefit
- **Personal** - He's not good in general; He's good to you specifically

Evidence of God's Goodness in Scripture

Throughout the Old Testament, we see God's goodness displayed repeatedly, even when His people didn't deserve it:

- He protected the Israelites in the wilderness
- He provided food and water in the desert
- He gave them victory over their enemies

- He forgave them time and time again when they turned away

First Chronicles 16:34 reminds us: "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

The word "endures" means it never stops, never runs out, and never gets tired. God's goodness toward you is eternal and unchanging.

God's Goodness in Your Life

Have you ever stopped to consider God's goodness in your own life? The very fact that you're breathing right now is evidence of His goodness.

Think about:

- The times He protected you when you didn't even know you were in danger
- The opportunities He provided just when you needed them
- The people He brought into your life at the right moment
- The ways He's provided for your needs

Psalms 107:8-9 beautifully describes this: "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."

The Problem: Taking Goodness for Granted

Here's where many people stumble. Just like the Israelites in the wilderness, we often enjoy God's protection and blessings but quickly forget to be thankful. We become like children who happily receive gifts but never say thank you or remain grateful.

God called His people "stubborn and stiff-necked" because they kept going their own way, even after experiencing His goodness. They brought hurt, confusion, and destruction upon themselves, not because God was punishing them, but because they chose to live apart from His goodness.

A Heart of Gratitude

The antidote to taking God's goodness for granted is developing a heart of gratitude. This isn't just about being positive—it's about recognizing and acknowledging what God has done and is doing in your life.

When you begin to see God's goodness clearly, something beautiful happens in your heart. You don't want to live apart from such a good God. You want to draw closer to Him, to live in a way that honours His goodness.

This is how God's goodness leads to repentance—not through fear or guilt, but through gratitude and amazement at His incredible love for you.

Chapter 3: The True Meaning of Repentance

More Than an Apology

When most people hear the word "repentance," they think of saying "I'm sorry" or feeling bad about something they've done wrong. While being sorry for sin is part of repentance, true biblical repentance goes much deeper.

The word "repentance" in the Bible means a complete change of heart and mind. It's not just feeling sorry—it's becoming a different person on the inside.

A Change of Heart, Not Just Behaviour

Many people try to change their behaviour without changing their heart. They might stop doing certain things or start doing others, but inside, they're still the same person. This kind of change doesn't last because it's only surface-deep.

True repentance is different. It's what happens when God transforms you from the inside out. The Bible describes it beautifully:

"I will take away their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh, and put My Spirit within them to empower them."

This is God's promise to you. He doesn't just want to modify your behaviour—He wants to give you a completely new heart that naturally wants to please Him.

The Difference between Stone and Flesh

A heart of stone is:

- Hard and unresponsive
- Cold toward God and others
- Stubborn and resistant to change
- Focused on self

A heart of flesh is:

- Soft and responsive to God
- Warm with love for God and others
- Open to God's leading
- Focused on serving God and others

Not a One-Time Event

While there's often a specific moment when someone first truly repents and receives salvation, repentance is also an ongoing process. As you grow in your relationship with God, He continues to show you areas where you need to change.

This isn't discouraging—it's exciting! It means God isn't finished with you yet. He's continually working to make you more like Jesus.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Here's the beautiful truth: you can't produce true repentance in yourself. It's not something you work up or manufacture through willpower. True repentance is the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart.

Your part is to be open and responsive to what God is doing. When He shows you something that needs to change, don't resist or make excuses. Simply agree with Him and ask for His help to change.

Why God's Goodness Leads to Repentance

Think about it this way: if someone you barely knew criticized you, you might get defensive. But if someone who truly loves you and has consistently shown you kindness points out something that's hurting you, you're much more likely to listen.

God's goodness creates an environment where change can happen naturally. When you truly understand how much God loves you and how good He is to you, you don't want to live in a way that grieves Him or harms yourself.

Repentance motivated by God's goodness is:

- Genuine rather than forced
- Lasting rather than temporary
- Joyful rather than bitter
- Hopeful rather than despairing

Chapter 4: The Three C's of True Repentance

True repentance isn't a simple, one-step process. It involves three distinct stages, each one the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart. Understanding these stages can help you recognize what God is doing in your life and cooperate with His work.

Conviction: When God Draws Your Heart

Conviction is the first stage of repentance. It's when the Holy Spirit begins to draw your heart toward Jesus and show you the truth about your need for God and His forgiveness.

What Conviction Feels Like:

- A growing awareness that something is missing in your life
- A sense that there's more to life than what you're currently experiencing
- An inner restlessness or dissatisfaction with life as usual
- A drawing toward spiritual things, even if you've never been interested before

The Truth in Every Heart: The apostle Paul tells us that the truth about God is written in the heart of every person. Deep down, everyone knows that God exists and that they are accountable to Him.

Conviction is when this truth becomes impossible to ignore.

Fighting Against Conviction: Here's where it gets challenging. When someone is under conviction, they often fight against what they know to be true. They might become angry, defensive, or even hostile toward spiritual things. This is what the Bible calls "kicking against the pricks."

In ancient times, farmers used pointed sticks called goads to guide their oxen. When an ox kicked against the goad or the prick, it only hurt itself more.

Similarly, when we fight against God's conviction, we only increase our own pain and frustration.

Conversion: The Moment of Change

Conversion is the second stage—the actual moment when your heart is changed. This is when you stop fighting against God's conviction and surrender your life to Jesus.

What Happens in Conversion:-

- You recognize your need for a Saviour
- You believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again
- You surrender control of your life to Him

- You receive His forgiveness and the gift of eternal life
- The Holy Spirit comes to live within you

Conversion Is Instantaneous: While conviction might happen over time, conversion is a moment in time when everything changes. You become a new creation—the old you passes away, and a new you is born.

The Light Comes On: At conversion, it's like a light suddenly comes on in a dark room. Things that never made sense before suddenly become clearer. You see God, yourself, and life itself from a completely new perspective. Although this happens very quickly, it may take you longer to notice the changes. Your reactions and natural impulses change, and others may even notice the change in you before you do.

Commitment: Living the New Life

Commitment is the third stage—the ongoing process of living out your new life in Christ. This is where many people struggle because they think conversion is the end of the journey, when it's actually just the beginning.

What Commitment Involves:

- **Surrender:** Giving God control of every area of your life
- **Trust:** Taking God at His Word, even when you don't understand

- **Obedience:** Doing what God says because you love Him
- **Growth:** Continually learning and becoming more like Jesus

More Than Agreement: Commitment is more than just agreeing with God intellectually. It's trusting Him with your whole heart, not leaning on your own understanding, but acknowledging Him in all your ways, and letting Him direct your path.

A Lifestyle of Worship: True commitment expresses itself in a lifestyle of worship and gratitude. You can live each day acknowledging God's goodness and giving Him praise for what He's done in your life.

The Choice Factor: At each stage, you have a choice. You can cooperate with what God is doing, or you can resist.

The beautiful thing is that God is patient with the process. He doesn't force you, but He persistently works in your heart with incredible love and goodness.

Your Part in the Process

While the Holy Spirit is the one who produces conviction, conversion, and commitment, you have an important part to play:

1. **Be Open:** Don't close your heart to what God is showing you

2. **Be Honest:** Admit your need instead of making excuses
3. **Be Responsive:** When God speaks, listen and obey
4. **Be Patient:** Allow God to work at His pace, not yours

Remember, God is using this process not because you're good, but because He is good. His goodness is what makes the entire journey possible.

Chapter 5: Saul's Story - A Picture of God's Goodness

Sometimes the best way to understand a truth is through a story. The conversion of Saul (who became the apostle Paul) is one of the most dramatic examples in the Bible of how God's goodness leads to repentance.

A Man Blessed by God

Saul had every advantage you could imagine.

He was:

- Highly educated and intelligent
- Brought up in the synagogue
- A top student with impressive credentials
- Respected in his community
- Zealous for his faith

By all outward appearances, Saul was a successful, religious man. If you had met him, you might have thought he had it all together spiritually.

The Hidden Struggle

But underneath Saul's impressive exterior, something was terribly wrong. He had developed an intense

hatred for Christians and was determined to silence them—even to the point of murder.

Why would a religious man become so violent toward the followers of Christ? The answer is conviction. Saul was fighting against the truth that was pulling at his heart. The more he fought, the angrier and more desperate he became.

"Kicking Against the Pricks"

When Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, He said something very revealing: "It is hard for you to kick against the pricks." This was a common expression referring to oxen that hurt themselves by fighting against the farmer's guidance.

Saul's anger and hatred weren't really about the Christians—they were evidence of his internal struggle against God's conviction. He was hurting others and hurting himself because he was fighting against what he knew deep down to be true.

The Encounter with Jesus

Picture the scene: Saul is traveling to Damascus with official papers to arrest more Christians. He's probably feeling satisfied with his mission, convincing himself that he's doing God's work.

Suddenly, a light brighter than the sun shines around him. He falls to the ground and hears a voice: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

This encounter wasn't punishment—it was the goodness of God in action. Jesus could have let Saul

continue on his destructive path, but His love wouldn't allow it.

Why Jesus Intervened

Jesus intervened for two reasons:

1. For the sake of His church: Saul was causing tremendous damage and persecution to those who followed Christ. But God's goodness protects His people.

2. For Saul's sake: God had chosen Saul for a greater purpose. He was going to use this zealous persecutor to take the mystery of God's Gift of Salvation to the Gentiles, and to teach them deep truths for following Christ.

This is how God's goodness works—He steps in not to destroy us, but to redirect us toward His best plan for our lives.

The Transformation

In that moment on the Damascus road, Saul experienced all three stages of repentance:

Conviction had been building for months or years as he fought against the truth.

Conversion happened in an instant when he surrendered to Jesus and asked, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Commitment followed as he spent the rest of his life serving the God he had once fought against.

He became a Different Man

The change was so complete that he went from being Christianity's greatest enemy to its greatest advocate.

He later described himself as:

- "A slave of Jesus Christ"
- "Chosen to preach this Gospel to the Gentiles"
- "Not ashamed of the Gospel"
- The greatest of sinners

1 Timothy 1 v 12-17

Paul's Gratitude for God's Mercy

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the

worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. All honour and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.

The Key Insight

Years later, Paul wrote these words: "The goodness of God leads men to repentance" (Romans 2:4). This wasn't just theology for Paul—it was his personal testimony. He had experienced first-hand how God's goodness had transformed his life.

Your Story

Like Saul, you have a choice. You can fight against God's conviction in your heart, or you can yield to His goodness. God has a purpose for your life just as He had for Saul's.

The same Jesus who met Saul on the Damascus road wants to meet you wherever you are. He's not coming in anger or condemnation, but in goodness and love.

What will your response be?

Questions for Reflection

- Are there areas where you might be "kicking against the pricks"—fighting against what you know God is showing you?
- How has God's goodness been evident in your life, even before you fully surrendered to Him?
- What "Damascus road" experiences has God used to get your attention?
- How might God want to use your story to help others, just as He used Paul's?

Chapter 6: Living in Gratitude

Once you've experienced God's goodness and responded with true repentance, how do you live differently? The answer is found in developing a lifestyle of gratitude—not as a technique or spiritual discipline, but as a natural response to God's incredible goodness in your life.

Never Take God's Goodness for Granted

This is perhaps the most important principle for every believer to remember. It's easy to become familiar with God's blessings and begin to take them for granted, just like the Israelites did in the wilderness.

The Evidence Is All Around You: The fact that you're breathing right now is proof of God's goodness. Your heartbeat, your ability to think, the air you breathe—all of these are gifts from a good God.

Look Back and Give Thanks: Take time regularly to look back at your life and acknowledge God's unseen hand.

Think about:

- Times when you were protected from danger you didn't even know existed

- Opportunities that came at just the right moment
- People who spoke words of encouragement when you needed them most
- Provision that came when you had no idea how your needs would be met

Gratitude in Brokenness

God's goodness isn't only evident in the good times. Often, His greatest acts of goodness come during our most difficult seasons. When everything seems to be falling apart, God is often doing His most important work in our hearts.

Broken Places Become Blessed Places: Many believers can testify that their seasons of brokenness became the times when they experienced God's goodness most deeply. It's often in the valley that we discover treasures we never would have found on the mountaintop.

Gratitude Changes Your Perspective: When you choose to be grateful even in difficult circumstances, you begin to see God's hand in places you never noticed before. Gratitude doesn't deny the reality of problems—it recognizes the greater reality of God's goodness in the midst of problems.

A Lifestyle of Worship and Praise

True gratitude isn't just an emotion or a mental attitude—it's a lifestyle of worship and praise.

This means:

Daily Acknowledgment: Starting each day by acknowledging God's goodness and thanking Him for His blessings, both seen and unseen.

Constant Awareness: Living with a consciousness of God's presence and provision throughout the day.

Verbal Expression: Speaking words of gratitude and praise, both to God and to others about what God has done.

Generous Living: Allowing gratitude to motivate generosity toward others, sharing the goodness you've received.

Beyond Positive Thinking

It's important to understand that biblical gratitude is different from merely having a positive attitude. Positive thinking is a human effort to see the bright side of things. Gratitude is a recognition of God's goodness regardless of circumstances.

Gratitude Is:

- Based on truth about God's character
- Focused on God's actions, not just feelings
- Sustained by faith, not just emotions

- Expressed in worship, not just words

Gratitude Is Not:

- Denying real problems or pain
- Pretending everything is fine when it's not
- A technique to get things from God
- Dependent on circumstances

The Unseen Hand of God

One of the most powerful exercises for developing gratitude is learning to recognize God's "unseen hand" in your life. This means looking for evidence of God's work that you might have missed at the time.

Ask Yourself:

- What "coincidences" in my life were actually God's timing?
- What disappointments led to better opportunities?
- What relationships has God used to bless me?
- What difficulties strengthened my character or faith?
- What provisions came just when I needed them?

Practical Ways to Cultivate Gratitude

Keep a Gratitude Journal: Write down three things you're grateful for each day. Include both big and small blessings.

Practice "Thank You" Prayers: Instead of always asking God for things, spend time just thanking Him for what He's already done.

Share Your Story: Tell others about God's goodness in your life. This encourages them and reinforces your own gratitude.

Look for Daily Mercies: Train yourself to notice small evidences of God's goodness throughout each day.

Remember Your "Before and After": Regularly remember what your life was like before Christ and how He's changed you.

The Power of Gratitude

When you live in gratitude:

- Your heart stays soft toward God
- You're less likely to take His blessings for granted
- You maintain proper perspective during difficult times
- You become a blessing to others
- You honour God and bring Him glory

Remember, God isn't using you because you're good—He's using you because He is good. This understanding keeps you humble and grateful, which are essential qualities for spiritual growth.

Living in gratitude isn't just about being thankful—it's about living in constant awareness of God's incredible goodness toward you. This awareness transforms everything about how you see God, yourself, and your purpose in life.

Chapter 7: Growing in Grace

Your journey with God doesn't end with conversion—it's just the beginning. Understanding that repentance is an ongoing process, not just a one-time event, is crucial for healthy spiritual growth. This chapter will help you navigate the continuing journey of becoming more like Jesus.

Repentance as a Continuing Journey

Initial Repentance: Your first experience of repentance brought you to salvation—you became a child of God, your sins were forgiven, and you received eternal life. This was complete and final; you don't need to be "saved" again.

Ongoing Repentance: As you grow in your relationship with God, He continues to show you areas of your life that need to change. This isn't God being picky or hard to please—it's evidence of His love and His desire to see you become everything He created you to be.

The Progressive Nature of Growth: Just as physical growth happens gradually over time, spiritual growth is also a process. God doesn't show you everything that needs to change all at once—that would be overwhelming. Instead, He gently guides you step by step into greater maturity.

Seeking God's Face, Not Just His Hand

One of the biggest obstacles to spiritual growth is having the wrong motivation for following God.

Many people, like the Israelites in the wilderness, are happy to receive God's blessings but aren't truly interested in knowing God Himself.

Seeking God's Hand Means:

- Being primarily interested in what God can do for you
- Praying mainly when you need something
- Measuring God's love by your circumstances
- Becoming disappointed when things don't go your way

Seeking God's Face Means:

- Wanting to know God for who He is
- Enjoying time with God even when you don't need anything
- Trusting God's love regardless of circumstances
- Finding satisfaction in God Himself, not just His gifts

The Difference It Makes: When you seek God's face rather than just His hand, your faith becomes stable and mature. You're not constantly up and down based on circumstances because your joy comes from your relationship with God, not from what He gives you.

Don't Just Ask God to Change Things—Ask Him to Change You

This is perhaps one of the most important principles for spiritual growth.

Most people's first instinct when facing problems is to ask God to change their circumstances. While it's fine to pray about your situation, the real breakthrough often comes when you ask God to change your heart.

Why Heart Change Is More Important:

- Changed circumstances without a changed heart often lead to the same problems recurring
- A changed heart can find peace and purpose even in difficult circumstances
- God is more interested in your character than your comfort
- Heart change produces lasting transformation, not just temporary relief

Praying for Heart Change: Instead of just praying, "God, fix this situation," try praying:

- "God, help me see this situation from Your perspective"
- "Show me what You want to teach me through this"
- "Change my heart so I can respond in a way that honours You"
- "Help me trust You even when I don't understand"

The Need for a New Perspective

Sometimes what you think is a problem is actually God's solution. What looks like a setback might be a setup for something better. What feels like a closed door might be God's protection from something harmful.

Getting God's Perspective:

- Spend time in prayer asking God to show you His view of the situation
- Study the Bible to understand how God works in people's lives
- Seek wise counsel from mature believers

- Look for patterns of how God has worked in your life before

Trusting God's Heart: Even when you can't see the full picture, you can trust God's heart toward you. His plans for you are good, even when the path seems difficult or confusing.

The Role of Commitment

True spiritual growth requires commitment—a complete surrender to God that goes beyond just agreeing with Him intellectually.

What True Commitment Looks Like:

- **Trusting with all your heart:** Not holding back areas of your life from God
- **Not leaning on your own understanding:** Admitting that God's ways are higher than your ways
- **Acknowledging Him in all your ways:** Including God in every decision and area of your life
- **Letting Him direct your path:** Being willing to go where He leads, even when it's not what you planned

The Challenge of Commitment: Commitment is often tested. God will sometimes ask you to do things that don't make sense to your natural mind or require you to trust Him in new ways. These are opportunities to deepen your faith and experience more of His goodness.

Your Divine Purpose

Just like Saul, who became known as Paul, God has called you for a divine purpose. You're not just saved to go to heaven someday—you're saved to make a difference in this world.

Everyone Has a Purpose:

- Your purpose might be to reach certain people that only you can reach
- You might be called to serve in ways that match your unique gifts and abilities
- God wants to use your story—including your failures and struggles—to help others
- Your purpose will always involve loving God and loving others

The Choice Factor: Like Saul, you have a choice. You can "kick against" what God is showing you, or you can yield to His leading.

The more you yield, the more you'll discover the joy and fulfillment that comes from living in God's purpose for your life.

Don't Settle—Seek to Know Him More

God wants to take you to higher levels of spiritual maturity and usefulness. Don't settle for spiritual mediocrity when God has so much more for you.

Characteristics of Those Who Don't Settle:

- They have a hunger to know God more deeply
- They're willing to let go of things that hinder their growth
- They embrace challenges as opportunities to grow
- They maintain a teachable heart throughout their lives

The Promise: As you seek to know God more, He promises to reveal Himself to you in greater ways. The journey of knowing God is one that will continue

throughout eternity—and it gets more exciting, not less, as you go deeper.

Questions for Reflection

- Am I more interested in God's hand or His face?
- What areas of my life is God currently showing me need to change?
- How can I develop a heart that seeks God's perspective on my circumstances?
- What might be God's unique purpose for my life?
- Where am I tempted to settle instead of pressing on to know God more?

Conclusion: Your Response Today

As we come to the end of our journey together through this book, you stand at a crossroads. You've learned about God's incredible goodness, and hopefully gained a glimpse into the true meaning of repentance, and what it looks like to live a life transformed by grace. Now comes the most important question: What will you do with what you've learned?

Two Paths before You

Just as the Israelites had a choice in the wilderness, you have a choice today. You can follow one of two paths:

The Path of David: David, despite his failures and mistakes, had a heart that was soft toward God.

When confronted with his sin, he prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." He was always quick to repent and return to God.

David's path is characterized by:

- Humility and a teachable spirit
- Quick repentance when shown areas of sin

- A heart that seeks God above all else
- Worship and gratitude as a way of life
- Trust in God's goodness even in difficult times

The Path of the Israelites: The Israelites, despite experiencing miracle after miracle, chose to complain and murmur. They focused on their problems rather than God's goodness, and they quickly forgot what God had done for them.

This path is characterized by:

- Complaining about circumstances
- Taking God's goodness for granted
- Focusing on problems rather than solutions
- Living with a sense of entitlement
- Forgetting God's past faithfulness

It's Your Choice Today

Which path will you choose? The choice you make will determine not just your own spiritual growth, but also your ability to impact others for God's kingdom.

If You Choose David's Path:

- Pray regularly for a clean heart and a right spirit
- Ask God to teach you His ways
- Develop a lifestyle of worship and gratitude
- Stay humble and teachable throughout your life
- Trust in God's goodness even when life is difficult

If you're tempted by the Israelites' Path:

- Remember that complaining never improves your situation
- Make gratitude a daily discipline, not just a feeling
- Focus on God's faithfulness rather than your problems
- Choose to trust God's heart even when you don't understand His ways
- Surround yourself with people who will encourage your faith

God's Heart for You

Remember that God isn't waiting for you to get your act together before He loves you. His goodness toward you isn't based on your performance—it's based on His character.

He loves you not because you're good, but because He is good.

His Promise to You: God wants to shift you to higher realms of spiritual maturity so He can use you to raise others. He has a purpose for your life that goes beyond what you can imagine. But it requires your cooperation and commitment.

His Patience with You: God is patient with your growth process. He won't give up on you, even when you make mistakes. His goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life.

A Personal Invitation

As you close this book, I want to extend a personal invitation to you. Don't just let these truths remain as interesting concepts in your mind. Let them transform your heart and life.

Start Today:

- Acknowledge God's goodness in your life, both past and present
- If you've never truly repented and surrendered your life to Jesus, do it today

- If you're already a believer, ask God to show you areas where you need to grow
- Begin living with gratitude as your default attitude
- Commit to seeking God's face, not just His hand

Keep Growing:

- Make time for daily prayer and Bible reading
- Find a community of believers who will encourage your growth
- Look for ways to serve others and share God's goodness
- Stay humble and teachable throughout your journey
- Remember that spiritual growth is a lifelong process

Your Divine Purpose

God has called you for a divine purpose, just as He called Paul. Your background, your struggles, your personality, your experiences—all of these are part of how God wants to use you to impact others.

Don't underestimate what God can do through a life fully surrendered to his Goodness.

About the Author

You have been sent to this earth—on purpose and with purpose. You were created by an amazing God who has an amazing plan for your life. Sadly, many never discover this great truth and die without knowing why their life matters.

Writing from Northern Ireland, Audrey has a deep love for God's Word and has been given a mandate to teach the principles of the Kingdom of God. Living out Psalm 145—that says “God's saints will speak of His glory and make known His mighty deeds and the glorious majesty of His Kingdom”—she shares only what God has revealed through Scripture and proven in real life.

Discovering God's Kingdom principles has brought strength and healing in countless ways to her own life. Her greatest passion is helping others know that Jesus is still the same—yesterday, today, and forever.

He still heals, He still delivers, and He still sets free.

Audrey writes from personal experience rather than theory, sharing God's revelations with the joy of encouraging others that they too can experience God's transforming power in their lives.

**For more information and Resources Visit our
Website: www.whispers-of-grace.uk**

Other books available

- Breaking Free from the Fear of Abandonment
- How to Recognise the Spirit of Heaviness and How to Defeat It
- Breaking Limitations One Day at A Time
- Pillars of Fire on the Earth
- Promotion Comes from God and Compensation is in His Plan First
- Things First – How to seek first the Kingdom of God
- What happens when we bring God's principles into everyday life
- It's Time to Shine
- Beauty in Brokenness
- The Heart of Obedience
- The Pursuit of Joy
- The Law of Honour

