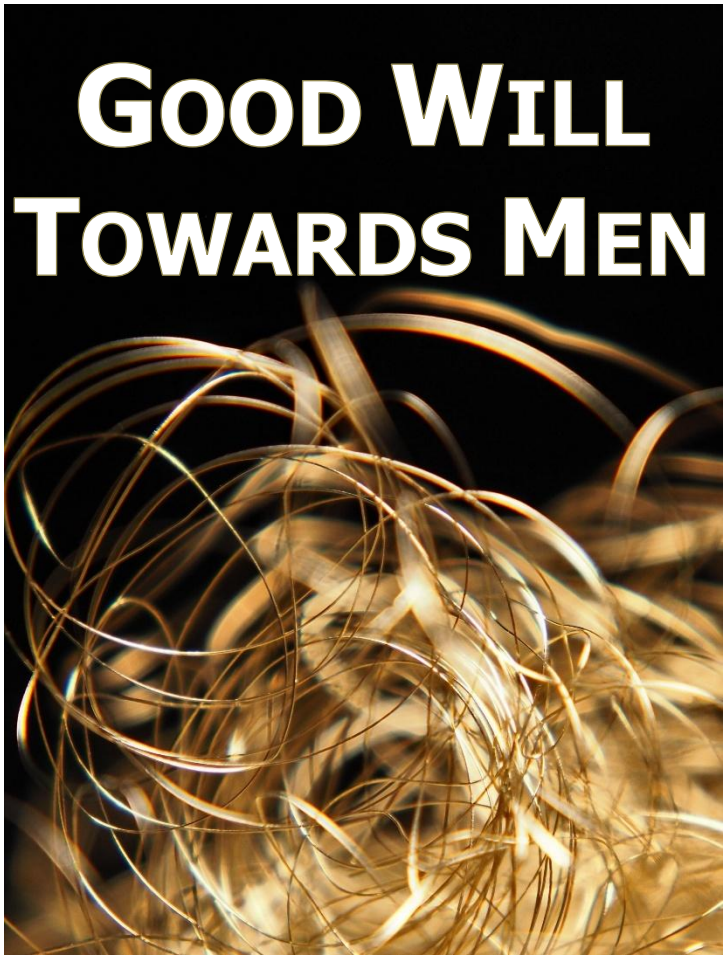
Good Will Towards Men



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‘Good Will Towards Men’
by
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Good Will Towards Men

This phrase was part of the angels' message to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born. They said in Luke 2:14 — "*Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men*."

"On Earth Peace"

After giving glory to God, the angels first proclaimed peace on earth. Most people assume this was about peace among people on earth. They think it is talking about the end of wars and strife. But Jesus said in Matthew 10:34-36 — "*Don't think that I came to send peace on the earth. I didn't come to send peace, but a sword. [35]For I came to set a man at odds against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. [36]A man's foes will be those of his own household*." Jesus didn't come with the intention of causing strife, but He knew it would often be the result of some people believing in Him and others rejecting Him.

So the angels weren't proclaiming peace between people. They were proclaiming peace between God and people here on earth. God always wanted a love relationship with us, but our sin got in the way, so He sent Jesus to earth to show us how much He loved us. Because He is a just God, sin had to be punished, but He punished Jesus for all our sins instead of us, so we could come into relationship with Him. Isaiah 53:5 says of Jesus — '*The punishment that brought our peace was on him*.' Through Jesus, God established peace on earth. He made it possible for us to enter into and enjoy peace with Him while we live our lives here on earth. If you are born-again, God is at peace with you. It's true whether you feel it or not.

"Good Will Towards Men"

The angels then proclaimed that, in sending Jesus to earth, God was willing good towards people. He was declaring that His intentions and plans for people are good. He didn't force His good plans on us or on the world — He willed it towards us through Jesus. And His desire is that we respond by believing in it and receiving it and allowing it to shape our life. He had said many years earlier in Jeremiah 29:11 — "*For I know the thoughts that I think towards you," says the LORD, "thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future*." God's will for people had aways been for good and not for evil. And now He was demonstrating this in a new and powerful way through the birth of His own Son. That good will towards us would culminate in Jesus' death and resurrection, after which all God's good will became available to everyone who will believe it and receive it.

Psalm 119:68 says of God — '*You are good, and do good*.' Good describes who God is, what He is like and how He acts. I remember the speaker at a conference I attended some years ago, talking a lot about God's goodness. He kept saying, "Good belongs to you." He also repeatedly encouraged us to expect good and to look for it. Psalm 23:6 says — '*Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life*.' God's good isn't something we have to earn. We could never do that — it is way beyond our own ability. But God, in His unconditional love and mercy, has made it freely available for anyone who will take hold of it. Psalm 145:9 says — '*The LORD is good to all. His tender mercies are over all his works*.' Thank You Lord.

God is willing good towards you right now. It's what He wants for your life. God showed you how much He loves you when He sent Jesus to die for you. Romans 5:8 says — '*But God commends his*

own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.' It was unconditional, sacrificial love for you which is beyond any other love you can ever know.

Good v Evil

In John 10:10 Jesus says — "*The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly*." This verse gives us a very clear distinction between the things that God does and those that the devil (the thief) does. It is the devil who does the bad stuff, not God. It is God who does the good. Whenever you feel or experience loss or limitation in any way, don't blame God. For example, if you are ill, your health is being stolen — that's the work of the devil. Or if a close friend has turned against you — that's the work of the devil trying to destroy things in your life that you value. Or if someone you love dies — that's the devil robbing you of the loving relationship you had with them. It's not God doing something awful in your life or allowing it in order to teach you something or punishing you or somehow making you a better person. It is the work of the devil.

When things happen in your life and in the lives of others, you can use this statement of Jesus in John 10:10, to judge who is at work. If it's bad, trying to steal, kill or destroy, then it's the devil. If it's good and life-giving, then it's God. We need to be able to tell when the devil is at work and when God is, so we know how to react. James 4:7 tells us to — '*Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*.' If it's God, then submit to Him and what He's doing, but if it's the devil, then resist him in the name of Jesus. Always remember that Jesus has won the victory over the devil. In the battle of good v evil, good has already won. Believe it and choose to base your life on it.

Know for certain that Jesus came to will God's good towards you — to give you abundant life. Remember Jesus says in John 10:10 — "*I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly*."

God Isn't Willing Bad Towards You

God's not willing bad towards you. He's not willing punishment towards you. Jesus took the punishment for your sin, so you wouldn't have to suffer it. God wouldn't have put Jesus through the unimaginable agony of His suffering and death if He was still going to punish you as well. That would not be fair to Jesus or to you. 1 John 2:2 says that Jesus — '*is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world*.' God is willing good towards you.

God's not willing bad towards you. He's not sending bad things to teach you something. He uses His Word to do that. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says — '*Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, [17]that each person who belongs to God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*.' God is willing good towards you.

God's not willing bad towards you. He's not allowing bad things to make you a better person. If this were true, then the people who have suffered the worst in this world would be the best and this is obviously not true. The Bible does tell us that God can use the bad things that happen to us to turn them round for our benefit, Romans 8:28 says — '*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose*.' God can bring good out of bad things, but He never sends them or allows them. He has made us all with free will. He has given us the ability to freely choose

what we think, say and do. And this has consequences for good or for evil. We can suffer the consequences of our own wrong decisions and the wrong decisions of others. He will never go back on how He made us by stepping in and just sorting everything out. But, as born-again believers, we have His presence with us and all His promises of guidance, strength, comfort, protection etc for us to believe and take hold of. It's when we do that, trusting in His Word, that we experience His help in the middle of bad things happening. God is willing good towards you.

Jesus Won the Victory over Evil

When Jesus suffered and died on the Cross, He won the victory over everything that stood in the way of you having a personal relationship with God as your loving Father.

Jesus took the punishment for every sin — past, present and future so you are now forgiven. You are free to receive the forgiveness Jesus won for you and walk in its freedom. The first part of 1 Peter 2:24 says — '*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness*.'

Jesus won the victory over sickness. When He was tortured before being nailed to the Cross, He was bearing every sickness and medical condition in His own body, so you won't have to suffer them, but can be well. Matthew 8:17 says — '*He took our infirmities and bore our diseases*.' He didn't bear them so you would have to bear them too. There would be no point in that. The second part of 1 Peter 2:24 says — '*You were healed by his wounds*.' He has already won your healing for you and wants you to take hold of it to see it become reality in your physical body.

Jesus won the victory over poverty too. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says — '*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich*.' This verse comes in two chapters which are all about money and giving. Another verse says in 2 Corinthians 9:8 — '*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work*.' This is the purpose of biblical prosperity — that we may have more than enough money so we are able to bless and help others and further the work of God's kingdom. Jesus became utterly poor on the Cross so that you could be rich.

Because of Jesus, we have the victory over sin, sickness and poverty if we will believe it and take hold of it. Choose to believe that God willed good towards you when He sent Jesus to earth and that He is still doing so today. In Jesus, God was and is willing good towards you.

We Have Victory over Evil

Jesus says in John 16:33 — *In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world*." Jesus has won the victory over all evil through His suffering, death and resurrection, so that in Him, we can overcome it too. Bad things may be going on around us or happening to us, but we have the confidence that God did not send them, and that He has a way through them because of the victory Jesus won over them. 1 John 3:8 says — '*To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil*.'

Psalm 46:1-3 says — '*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2]Therefore we won't be afraid, though the earth changes, though the mountains are shaken into the*

heart of the seas; [3]though its waters roar and are troubled, though the mountains tremble with their swelling.' God has done His part — He is there for us as a refuge and strength and to help us, but notice that we have to do our part too. We have to decide to trust Him in the middle of the bad things. We have to choose to not fear, no matter what is going on. And we can do it, however difficult it may seem, because Jesus has won the victory over it all for us and He is with us to help us.

Psalm 23:4 says — '*Even 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*.' Notice that God will lead you through, not make you stay, in that difficult place. Choose to allow Him to lead you through the bad stuff and you will come out the other side. 1 Corinthians 15:57 says — '*thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*.'

Experiencing God's Good Will

Psalm 34:8 says — '*Oh taste and see that the LORD is good*.' God is always good and is always willing good towards us, but we have to taste His goodness in order to see it or experience it. We can think about our favourite food, talk about it, watch other people eating it and listen to them telling us how good it is, but it's not until we actually put it in our mouth and taste it that we get to fully know and experience just how good it is. In the same way, we can read about how good God is, hear about how good He is and see other people really enjoying Him and telling us how good He is, but it's only when we come into relationship with Him ourself and choose to believe and receive the truth of His Word personally, that we really know and experience just how good He is. No-one else can do it for us.

First of all, we need to be born-again. Romans 10:9-10 says — '*if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* [10]*For with the heart one believes resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation*.' When you do this sincerely, you are born-again and everything Jesus won for you through His suffering, death and resurrection is yours to take hold of. You are now a child of God and He is your loving Father who has nothing but good for you.

But you won't experience it all automatically. Romans 12:2 says — '*Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God*.' We may be born-again, but we can still live in fear and doubt. The way to be transformed once we are born-again, is to renew our mind in God's Word. He tells us to turn away from the way the world thinks and turn to His Word to find out how He thinks. It is as we change our thoughts and attitudes to match His, that we will discover His good will for us and can start to experience it in our life.

God's Good Towards You

On the day Jesus was born, the angels told the shepherds in Luke 2:14 — "*Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men*." They praised God and declared that Jesus was to bring peace between man and God, making it possible for anyone to come into a personal relationship with God as their loving Father. And then they proclaimed that in Jesus, God was willing good towards people — towards you.

Believe God is willing good towards you and receive it now. Good belongs to you. Expect it and look for it and enter into the abundant life Jesus came to give you.

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The angels declared these words to the shepherds
on the night Jesus was born.
They proclaimed that in Jesus,
God was willing good towards people.
And He's still doing so today.
He is willing good towards you, not bad.
Discover this wonderful truth
and how it can change your life.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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