



God's Goodness Destroys Worry

"I am confident of this, I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13 (NIV)

Number 38 in the series "God's Faithfulness in My Daily Battles"

Beloved, I know no greater way to defeat the enemy than to meditate on the goodness and faithfulness of my Lord in the midst of battle. I think of a chorus from an old song, "Count your blessings, name them one by one." Whenever I am in a bad situation, I start to count my blessings: gratefulness to God for HIS AMAZING GRACE in saving a sinner like me and His daily goodness in supplying food, clothing, and a home for me. As a child I grew up in poverty, so I often knew hunger. I am very grateful for things that most people take for granted as "their right to have."

I have also ministered in Third World countries. That helps keep my heart grateful to God **for His goodness** toward me. I have ministered in the slums of the Philippines, eating the best food that people had to offer (which most people here would refuse to eat). The food would be covered in flies. We could not hurt and offend the people by refusing it. We had to guard our facial expressions so as not to offend. When a bowl of rice covered in flies was put in front of us, one of the local pastors said, "Tell yourself it is raisins." Help, Lord!

My husband and I ministered in a Missouri prison for five years. Believe me, there is no comparing prison here with the ones where I ministered in the Philippines. Their prisons are very bad.

I even learned to be grateful for toilet paper! We had to take our own toilet paper to the Philippines. Oh beloved, we take so much for granted. Proverbs 13:12 (KJV) reads, "*Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*"

Beloved, have you been in a long war? Do you feel there is no end to your suffering? Does your heart feel sick with hopelessness, fear, and worry? Before I gave my life to Jesus Christ, I felt that way many times. However, when I looked around me, especially when I think of the persecution and suffering that our brothers and sisters in Christ are having to endure in so many countries, I find I have much for which to be grateful.

You may be thinking, "That is fine for you, Janice, but you do not know how bad my life is." Beloved, I know suffering. **God's goodness** saved my life through years of physical and sexual abuse in an alcoholic and drug home. **God's goodness** sustained me when I had no food to eat, only a chair for a bed, and no warm clothes in the winter. **God's goodness** has faithfully destroyed worry, doubt, fear, and unbelief in countless painful situations in my life.

Nahum 1:7 (KJV) reads, "*The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*" Do not give up, beloved! God is good! He is worthy of our trust! I can assure you that He will never fail you! When you are being assailed with doubt, fear, worry, and anxiety, count your blessings. Count your blessings. They are all around you. No matter what you are going through, count your blessings. **God's goodness** will destroy your worry.

With a goal to glorify Jesus Christ
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