



# Good Things

*Seeing Your Life  
Through the Lens  
of God's Favor*

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KEVIN GERALD

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**Praise for**  
*Good Things*

“Kevin Gerald isn’t one of those annoying ‘God is good . . . all the time . . . generically speaking’ Christians. He champions an optimism that doesn’t contradict reality. He acknowledges the frustrations of life but makes the convincing case that the force of God’s favor is always greater. This is my kind of book: full of hope, packed with power.”

—STEVEN FURTICK, lead pastor, Elevation Church and *New York Times* best-selling author of *Crash the Chatterbox*, *Greater*, and *Sun Stand Still*

“*Good Things* will train your eyes to see God, his goodness, and his favor upon you in every situation you find yourself in and will dramatically change your life. I so appreciate Kevin’s solid approach and his uplifting voice.”

—LYSA TERKEURST, *New York Times* best-selling author  
and president of Proverbs 31 Ministries

“In one of the most challenging seasons of my career, this phrase from Kevin Gerald got me through: ‘This is just a chapter—it’s not the story.’ Kevin has been a leader in my life for the past ten years, through the ups and downs, and he has been there challenging me to keep my perspective right. With this book, I’m confident he can encourage and challenge you to see God’s goodness in your life more clearly.”

—JONATHAN STEWART, NFL running back, Carolina Panthers

“With inspired biblical insight, Kevin Gerald challenges us to look deeper in our understanding of what God’s favor is all about. The result is like putting on a new pair of glasses and realizing what you’ve been missing.

Loaded with practical application for Christians in every season, *Good Things* will forever change the way you see the goodness of God and our abundant gifts as his children.”

—CHRIS HODGES, senior pastor, Church of the Highlands  
and author of *Fresh Air* and *Four Cups*

“With humor and truth, Kevin Gerald gives us the binoculars to see the limitless landscape of God’s favor in a new and fresh way.”

—MARK BATTERSON, *New York Times* best-selling author  
of *The Circle Maker*

“Kevin’s fresh approach to seeing God’s hand in all circumstances of our lives is eye opening. His words craft a lens of awareness through which many will see God’s favor with new clarity.”

—DR. ED YOUNG, senior pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston

“Seeing God’s favor in your life can sometimes be difficult, especially if you are facing challenges, insecurities, or fears. Sometimes all it takes is a change in perspective. *Good Things* explains what God’s favor is all about and how we can see it everywhere if we just look for it.”

—CRAIG GROESCHEL, senior pastor of LifeChurch.tv and author  
of *#Struggles: Following Jesus in a Selfie-Centered World*

“Kevin Gerald is a longtime friend and fellow church builder with a passion to see people experience a life of fullness and purpose. Read and be encouraged that despite life’s many and varied challenges, the favor, mercy, grace, and blessing of our good and gracious God are both available and ongoing.”

—BRIAN HOUSTON, senior pastor, Hillsong Church  
and author of *Live, Love, Lead*

“In *Good Things*, pastor Kevin Gerald shows clearly that by walking in the favor and goodness of the Creator, your destiny will be directly impacted in a very meaningful way.”

—MARCUS D. LAMB, founder and president Daystar  
Television Network

“The mirror of the Scriptures often reflects us rather than Christ, unless we have been prescribed the lens of favor. Kevin Gerald’s book is your prescription!”

—PHIL MUNSEY, chairman, Champions Network with  
Joel Osteen Ministries

“I have personally been so blessed by Pastor Kevin’s ability to see things from a perspective that clears through the distractions and brings new direction. His gift of making things that seem out of focus become clear is now accessible for so many through the pages of this brilliant book.”

—CHARLOTTE GAMBILL, author, speaker, and pastor of Life  
Church in England with her husband, Steve

“A day of favor will change your life forever. I encourage you to read this book and share it with everyone you can: favor is just that amazing.”

—DR. DAVE MARTIN, America’s #1 Christian success coach  
and author of *Another Shot*

“In *Good Things*, Kevin Gerald reminds us that God’s favor and goodness aren’t reserved for the superspiritual. The truth is that they are available to everyone, every moment of every day!”

—Ed Young, senior pastor of Fellowship Church and author  
of *Outrageous, Contagious Joy*

“*Good Things* unpacks great insight on what true favor from God really is. Many people have a distorted view of God and his favor for our lives. This book will help change the mind-set that ensnares so many in bondage, never actually living the life God fully intended for them. *Good Things* will bring clarity to your life and renewal to your soul.”

—LEE DOMINGUE, founder of Kingdom Builders U.S.,  
legacy pastor Church of the Highlands, and author  
of *Pearls of the King*

“Kevin Gerald is one of America’s top communicators. As you read through *Good Things*, the unique wisdom he applies to a difficult topic will touch your heart and forever change your perception of God’s favor.”

—LEON FONTAINE, CEO of Miracle Channel and senior  
pastor of Springs Church

“In *Good Things*, Kevin Gerald does an amazing job of helping us see that when we know favor and walk in it, pride is depleted, and we are allowed to lead a life of humility, gratefulness, and generosity.”

—SAM CHAND, leadership consultant and author  
of *Leadership Pain*

“*Good Things* compellingly challenges us to look for God’s favor and goodness in our everyday existence.”

—JENTEZEN FRANKLIN, senior pastor, Free Chapel  
and *New York Times* best-selling author



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GOOD THINGS

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*This book is dedicated to my dad, who is a steadfast and unwavering optimist. Thank you, Dad, for your stubborn insistence that God is good and would always do good things in and through my life.*

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To the #GoodFinders who join me on this mission.

# Beginning

**H**is words were like waves of assurance as he spoke to the crowds gathered that day:

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give **good things** to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:11, ESV)

Have you ever wondered, as I have, what those good things really are that Jesus referred to . . . and why it seems some people receive more good in their lives than others?

Or maybe you have thought that good things are for everyone else but you . . . because you must have done something bad or wrong and are no longer on God's "good side"?

My main goal in this book is to convince you that you meet the criteria and have already been preapproved to experience a lifetime of good things!

I've found that many, if not most, of God's children don't experience all the benefits that come from being a member of *the* family. What's often missing is an understanding of an important concept called "favor." When we're unaware of the extent of God's favor, we're certain to limit it by comparing it to human kindness. When we do this we severely underestimate its unparalleled greatness. On the other hand, by elevating

our awareness of favor we begin to experience immediate benefits and blessings.

I don't want to overpromise what you might gain from this book. But, seriously, this is information that can dramatically change your life . . . maybe even save your life.

Interested?

Let's go.

*Part 1*



God Is in the Good

# Am I Seeing Clearly?

I

I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the LORD.

—PSALM 27:13

I can see clearly now, the rain is gone . . .

—JOHNNY NASH, A SONG  
FROM THE '70S

I was standing in a beachfront sunglass store looking for a cleaning cloth to clean my glasses when the guy behind the counter said, “Here, try these on, turn around and look out at the water.”

I’m thinking, *Can’t the guy see that I’ve got sunglasses on?* So I said, “I’m actually just looking for a cleaning cloth . . .” He kept the glasses extended to me, “I can help you with that, but you won’t believe these glasses . . . have a look while I grab the cloth.”

A bit reluctant, I took off my glasses, put on the ones he’d handed me, and turned toward the ocean. It was an instantaneous “wow!” I was stunned. I was now seeing what I had not seen only moments before. There were vibrant colors and brilliant shades that seemed to shout, *I’ve been here all along waiting for you to notice me!* The view was nothing short of spectacular.

Forget the cleaning cloth! I bought my first pair of polarized sunglasses.

Since then I’ve learned how polarized glasses work. There are vertical

lines and horizontal lines of light. The polarized lens eliminates the horizontal lines, which cuts out 100 percent of reflected light. This allows

*There's a huge difference in assuming God is good and seeing evidence of his goodness.*

you to see what's behind or beyond the glare. For example, if you're on a boat you'll assume there are fish beneath the water's surface, but you don't actually see them due to the reflective glare of the sun.

However, polarized glasses cut through the glare, and you actually see the illuminated life beneath the surface. The same is true when looking out across the horizon. The distortion is eliminated, allowing you to take in the full view beyond the glare.

Looking back I now know why the salesman in the sunglass hut continued to hold the glasses out toward me. He knew there was a clearer, brighter view.

My goal for this book is like that. I want to be like the guy in the sunglass shop, offering you a new, vibrant view of your life. Because . . .

*There's a huge difference in assuming God is good and seeing evidence of his goodness.*

And . . .

What if you could train your eyes to see the good? What if you could "cut through" the glaring issues of life and see God's constant presence and extravagant goodness?

### **RANDOM BLINDNESS**

Another time, I was standing at the sink in a public restroom washing my hands when a woman walked in. She looked confused, then horrified the moment she saw me.

To ease her embarrassment, I tried to lighten things by smiling big

and saying, “Ma’am, you’re in the wrong restroom.” She quickly apologized, turned back around, and grabbed the door to leave. She was about halfway out when she suddenly looked back at me with a huge smile and said, “No, sir, you’re in the wrong restroom!”

*Oh no!* Now it was my turn to be embarrassed and I made a quick exit!

Looking at the bold WOMEN sign out front, I asked myself, *How did I not see that sign?*

The reality is that **people don’t see . . . what people don’t see.**

Sometimes people wonder why they don’t have faith or how they can have more faith. They may even pray for more faith. But what they don’t realize is that faith is a product of our senses. The Bible says that “faith comes from hearing” (Romans 10:17). The reason faith increases from what we hear is that what we hear changes the focus of what we see.

When the things that you’re hearing are negative, you will see the negative things in your life. It might be things your spouse, a neighbor, a person at work, or the nightly news is pointing out. Bad news comes from a lot of places. But regardless of the source, it will turn your focus toward what’s wrong with the world and your life.

In the same way, when you hear good things from the people in your life or a positive program on the radio, your focus turns toward the good in the world. Your senses pick up what was less obvious before, and now you start to see what you did not see. Your sense of hearing has alerted your sense of vision, causing you to see what was hidden.

Cynics like to accuse optimists of not seeing or not being realistic about the negative realities of life.

I’m convinced it’s just the opposite—that it’s the positive reality that so often is blocked from a person’s view. It’s not that people don’t want to see good things. They just can’t see them! They have a distorted view of reality, one that is missing special moments and great blessings. When

you don't see the whole picture, what you see is a distortion that can cause you to reach conclusions based on a partial view of your life.

One of the great deceptions of our time is the idea that “goodness” and “good things” exist on their own, without origin, aside and apart from God. Or worse, that goodness somehow originates in human beings. Practical goodness . . . common goodness . . . all goodness comes to be taken for granted.

All of this is a lie. The truth is that God is the source of all goodness and good things: “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17, NASB).

However, when the lie is believed, then people dissociate good from God and often fail to see him as good. Not only that, those same people associate with God all that goes wrong in the world, which further obscures the truth that God is good and all good things come from him.

*God is the source  
of all goodness  
and good things.*

When you separate good from God, you take away the awareness of God's goodness and mankind's need to thank, honor, revere, and worship him. The opposite happens when we connect good with God: we want to thank, honor, and worship him!

### LEARNING TO SEE

There's a story in the Old Testament where a servant of the prophet Elisha was seeing—with his physical eyes—all the opposition forces that were gathered against Israel in battle. But this man was completely unaware of what he could not see—all of God's protective forces surrounding them.

Elisha prayed that his servant's spiritual eyes would be opened so that he could see God's favor in the legions of angels that were protecting them in the middle of this high-pressure situation (see 2 Kings 6:17).

There's something that happens in our hearts and minds when we go from *hearing* that God is good to actually *seeing* God's goodness!

I can understand if you're wondering how a book called *Good Things* is going to offer a clearer, "polarized" view of life and how it can influence your life experience. It's actually kind of simple: *The more good we see, the more optimistic we will be.*

In life when I'm missing the good, it affects my outlook and even my spiritual equilibrium. Some days the good in life is obvious; on other days it hides itself in the routine, complexity, tragedy, and hardship of living. Back-to-back days of hidden goodness certainly can distort my view. They lower the level of my faith and can open the door to discouragement. All because of what I'm *not seeing*.

This distortion reminds me of the way my physical sight was before I put on those polarized sunglasses: *I didn't see . . . what I didn't see.*