

IS GOD REALLY GOOD ALL THE TIME?

Living in the Goodness of God – Part 1: Psalm 23

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MEMORY VERSE

"For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."
Psalm 100:5 (NIV)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I FORGET GOD'S GOODNESS?

1. I START CLAIMING CREDIT FOR THINGS GOD DID FOR ME

"For who considers you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?" 1 Corinthians 4:7 (NASB)

2. I STOP ASKING GOD FOR HELP

Jesus: "If you, as imperfect parents, know how to give good gifts to your own children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him?" Luke 11:13(NLT)

"Let us come boldly to the throne of our good and gracious God. There we will receive His mercy and find grace to help us when we need it!" Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

David: "Answer me, O Lord, out of the goodness of Your love." Psalm 69:16a (NIV)

3. I STOP TRUSTING GOD IN DIFFICULT TIMES

"Protect me, God, because I trust in You. You are my Lord! And every good thing I have comes from You!" Psalm 16:1-2 (NCV)

Paul: "We can have joy even in our troubles, because we know that these troubles are good for us, producing patience...and character...and hope!" Romans 5:3-4 (NLT/NCV)

"And we know that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him, and are called according to His good purpose." Romans 8:28 (NCV)

4. I BECOME PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE

"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I'd see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Instead I thought 'Wait for the Lord! Be strong and let your heart take courage! Yes, wait for the Lord!'" Psalm 27:13-14 (NAS)

HOPE: IS ANTICIPATING GOD'S GOODNESS

PSALM 23: BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD . . .

1. HE WILL MEET MY NEEDS WHEN I'M WORRIED!

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want." Psalm 23:1

2. HE WILL TEACH ME TO RELAX WHEN I'M STRESSED!

"He makes me lie down in green pastures, and He leads me beside quiet waters." Psalm 23:2

3. HE WILL REPLENISH MY STRENGTH WHEN I'M EMPTY!

"He restores my soul."

"He gives me new strength."

Psalm 23:3a

Psalm 23:3a (NCV)

4. HE WILL GUIDE ME WHEN I'M CONFUSED!

"He guides me in the right paths for His name's sake."

Psalm 23:3b

5. HE WILL WALK WITH ME IN DARK & FEARFUL DAYS!

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me." Psalm 23:4

6. HE WILL PROTECT ME WHEN I FEEL INSECURE!

"Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

Psalm 23:4b

7. HE WILL PUBLICLY SHOW HIS FAVOR ON MY LIFE!

"You prepare a banquet for me in front of all my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." *Psalm 23:5*

8. HE WILL BE GOOD TO ME NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!

"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life." *Psalm 23:6a*

9. HE WILL TAKE ME TO HEAVEN ONE DAY!

"And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." *Psalm 23:6b*

Jesus "My purpose is to give life in all its fullness. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." *John 10:10-11 (NLT)*

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

God, Thank You for Your unfailing goodness toward me. I'm sorry that I have often forgotten Your goodness. I simply don't think about it, and when I don't think about how good You are, I start claiming credit for things that You did for me, through me, and in me, and to me. Forgive me, Lord.

God, so much of the time, I forget Your goodness, and I just stop asking You for help. I'm not learning to trust You because I'm not asking You to meet my needs. You told me to come boldly in prayer to You, my good and gracious God, and to expect You to answer me out of Your goodness. I want to start asking for Your blessing and answers to my needs every day of my life. Lord, because I forget Your goodness, I often stop trusting You in difficult times. Help me to remember that in everything, You are working for good, even the difficult times, because You have a good plan for my life. I don't want to be pessimistic about my future. Like David, I would despair if I didn't know the goodness of God. Help me to wait for You, help me to be strong, to take courage in my heart, and to wait for You, God, to answer the needs in my life."

Lord, I want this life that is outlined in Psalm 23, a life of sustenance and balance, resilience and guidance, confidence and assurance, influence and abundance, benevolence and inheritance. I know that You have made this available not because of my goodness, because I am not, but because of Your goodness and Your grace. Thank You, Jesus, for paying for all of these things with Your life. I ask You to be my Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep, and You did that for me. I don't understand it all, but I am asking You to make Yourself real to me, and I want to learn to love You (more) and follow You (more) and trust You (more). You are a good God. I pray this humbly in Jesus' name. Amen.