

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

Pray: Part 4

July 3, 2022

Pastor Brian

PREMISE

Your understanding of what God is really like shapes every element of your spiritual life, including how you pray.

“What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you.”

~ A.W. Tozer

“For **THE LORD IS ALWAYS GOOD**. He is always loving and kind, and his faithfulness goes on and on to each succeeding generation.” (Psalm 100:5, The Living Bible)

BECAUSE GOD IS ALWAYS GOOD...

1. GOD’S PLANS FOR MY LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE GOOD.

“...I know what I am planning for you,” says the LORD. “I have **GOOD PLANS** for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a **GOOD FUTURE**. Then you will call my name. You will come to me and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” (Jeremiah 29:11–12, NCV)

“Oh, **HOW GREAT IS YOUR GOODNESS**, which You have laid up for those who fear, revere, and worship You...” (Psalm 31:19, AMP)

“And we know that God causes everything to work together **FOR THE GOOD** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” (Romans 8:28, NLT)

“Don’t you see, you planned evil against me, but God used those same plans **FOR MY GOOD**. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” (Genesis 50:20, MSG/NLT)

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that **THEY ARE GOOD FOR US**—they help us learn to be patient.” (Romans 5:3, The Living Bible)

Everything God does in my life; He does for my good.

2. GOD ALWAYS GIVES ME WHAT I NEED, NOT WHAT I DESERVE.

*“He has not treated us as we deserve for our sins or paid us back for our wrongs...[**IN HIS GOODNESS**] He has taken our sins away from us as far as the east is from west.” (Psalm 103:10,12, GW/NCV)*

*“Have mercy on me, God, **IN YOUR GOODNESS**; in your abundant compassion blot out my offense. Wash away all my guilt; from my sin cleanse me.” (Psalm 51:3–4, NAB)*

*“Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close...my enemies are waiting for me. Do not let me fall into their hands. For they accuse me of things I’ve never done... [Yet] I remain confident of this: **I WILL SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD** in the land of the living.” (Psalm 27:10–13, NLT/NIV)*

*“[Jesus] understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. [Therefore] **let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God**. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” (Hebrews 4:15–16, NLT)*

3. GOD PUT MY GOOD ABOVE HIS OWN GOOD.

*“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So **I sacrifice my life for the sheep**.” (John 10:14–15, NLT)*

*“The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to **give his life** for them.” (John 15:13, GNB)*

*“For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, **he poured God’s goodness into us!**” (2 Corinthians 5:21, The Living Bible)*

*“He died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God, **FILLING US WITH GOD’S GOODNESS**.” (Romans 4:25, The Living Bible)*

“Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else?” (Romans 8:32, NLT)

4. HE DOES NOT SAY YES TO EVERY REQUEST!

*“You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give **GOOD GIFTS** to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” (Luke 11:11–13, NLT)*

“But Jesus answered by saying to them, “You don’t realize what you are asking!” (Matthew 20:22a, NLT)

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8–9, NLT)

5. THE GREATEST PRAYER IS THE ONE THAT **CHANGES MY ETERNITY!**

*"I pray that the God of peace will give you **EVERY GOOD THING** you need so you can do what he wants. God raised from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, because of the blood of his death. **His blood began the eternal agreement** that God made with his people. I pray that God will do in us what pleases him, through Jesus Christ, and to him be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20–21, NCV)*

*"Surely your **GOODNESS** and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." (Psalm 23:6, NIV)*

ACTION STEP

Movie Night!