

What do you fear the most?  
How many of those things are in the future?

*Living in the Goodness of God: WHY YOU DON'T NEED TO FEAR YOUR FUTURE*

Psalm 23:1 - *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 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. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

Anytime you start worrying about your future remember the last verse of Psalm 23. Verse 6 says, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

It gives us... 3 REASONS WE DONT NEED TO FEAR THE FUTURE

**The 1<sup>st</sup> reason I don't need to fear the future is BECAUSE GOD'S GOODNESS IS WATCHING OVER ME!**

**Ps. 23:6 - "Surely goodness... will follow me all the days of my life..."**

**PS. 145:20 - "The Lord watches over all who love him..." (NIV)**

God in his goodness is always paying attention to you!  
He doesn't miss any detail!  
God also protects you in 100s of ways that you never know about.

Doesn't mean Only good things will happen to me  
MEANS: God will ensure that good comes out of whatever happens!\_ROM. 8:28  
*During* bad situations, we can't see any good -But God is working!

**2<sup>nd</sup> reason I don't need to fear the future is BECAUSE GOD'S GRACE IS WORKING IN ME! "Surely...mercy will follow me all the days of my life..."**

- Goodness is when God GIVES me what I DON'T DESERVE!
- Mercy is when God DOESN'T GIVE me what I DO DESERVE!
- Glad it doesn't say "God's justice will follow me..."

- Because God is good I can expect both provision & pardon
- Provision of good things in my life
- Pardon for the bad things in my life

- "Surely mercy will follow me all the days of my life" → Pursues
  - ILL: Like a parent following a toddler picking up their messes.
  - *God is always picking up after your messes!*

6 – "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life..."

- ALL = not just *some* days. *May not feel it* but "surely"

LOOK AT NOTES Psalm 103 lists a # of ways God shows you mercy (circle) PS. 103: 2-11 "I will...not forget the glorious things God does for me. He forgives all my sins. He heals me. He redeems me from hell. He surrounds me with loving-kindness ... He fills my life with good things ... He is merciful and tender toward

*those who don't deserve it; He is slow to get angry... He never bears a grudge ... He has not punished us as we deserve for our sins for HIS MERCY... is as great as the height of the heavens ... He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence him.” (LB)*

- Because of God’s mercy - I can come to him ANYTIME I mess up!  
LOOK AT NOTES HEB. 4:16 - *Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. (CSB)*

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> reason I don’t need to fear the future is BECAUSE GOD’S GLORY IS WAITING FOR ME!**

Isaiah 63:15; Acts 7:55; John12:16

*“AND I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* 1 Corinthians 2:9; Romans 9:23

- Circle “and” - that little word connects today & tomorrow
- Even after you’ve lived a blessed life- *it’s not the end!*
- *The best is yet to come!*
- With Jesus - it keeps getting better & better!

What are the Implications of these 3 truths for you NOW?

HOW TO LIVE FULLY & FEARLESSLY... *I must...*

#### **1<sup>st</sup> - STAY GRATEFUL BECAUSE GOD IS SO GOOD TO ME!**

My 1st response to God’s Goodness & Mercy should be Gratitude

PS. 118:29 *“Give thanks continually to the Lord because he is so good, and because his mercy will never run out.”*

- Past messages- the power of gratitude
- Gratitude is a powerful antidote to fear!
- *Can’t be grateful & fearful at same time!*

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> - BE GENEROUS BECAUSE GOD IS SO GOOD TO ME!**

MT. 10:5-8 - *Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge: “Don’t begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers. And don’t try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy. Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously. (Mes)*

- Give your Treasure = offering, tithe
- Talent = volunteer in church ministry, events, workdays ... and Jobs/Careers
- Time = Harvest Crusade, August 23-25 (Counselors, Prayer Team, Ushers)

PS. 112:5-8 - Good will come to the one who lends generously and conducts his business fairly.<sup>6</sup> He will never be shaken. The righteous one will be remembered forever.<sup>7</sup> He will not fear bad news; his heart is confident, trusting in the Lord.<sup>8</sup> His heart is assured; he will not fear. In the end he will look in triumph on his foes. → *The more generous you are, the less fearful you are.*

### 3<sup>RD</sup> - BE GRACIOUS BECAUSE GOD IS SO GRACIOUS WITH ME!

He wants you to pass it on...

EPH. 4:32 - "Be gracious and merciful to everyone, and forgive others, just as God has forgiven you because of Christ." → BEING GRACIOUS IS ANOTHER NAME FOR LOVE.

1 JN. 4:18 - "There is no fear in love. Instead perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears has not matured in love."

gratefulness, generosity and graciousness/love are antidotes to fear

Finally, to live fearlessly I must...

4<sup>th</sup> - LIVE MY LIFE FOR GOD'S GLORY BECAUSE HE WILL SHARE HIS GLORY WITH ME!\_How do you live for God's glory?\_MT. 5:16 - Jesus "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"

- There is only one way to live for God's glory and to do the good work of God → Give your life to Jesus!
- Let him be the Lord of your life.
  
- Let him be your shepherd...

Psalms 23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. I shall not want ...

1. Rest — *for He makes me lie down in green pastures*
2. Peace — *for He leads me beside still waters*
3. Forgiveness — *for He restores my soul*
4. Guidance — *for He leads me in righteous paths*
5. Companionship — *for He is with me*
6. Comfort — *for His rod and staff comfort me*
7. Provision — *for He prepares a table for me*
8. Protection — *for He does so in the presence of my enemies*
9. Acceptance — *for He anoints my head with oil*
10. Abundance — *for He makes my cup overflow*
11. Grace — *for He makes goodness and mercy follow me*
12. Security — *for He makes me dwell in His house forever*