

REMEMBER GOD'S GOODNESS!

Psalm 100:5 – *“The Lord is always good. He is always loving and kind, and his faithfulness goes on and on to each succeeding generation.”* (Living)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I FORGET GOD'S GOODNESS?

1. I BECOME UNGRATEFUL AND START CLAIMING CREDIT FOR THINGS GOD ALLOWS ME TO POSSESS

Luke 12:16-21 [Jesus] – [16] *“And he told them this parable: ‘The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. [17] He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ [18] Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’ [19] And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’ [20] But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ [21] This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”* (NIV)

Acts 12:21-23 – [21] *“On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. [22] They shouted, ‘This is the voice of a god, not of a man.’ [23] Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.”* (NIV)

1 Corinthians 4:7b – *“What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why act as though you are so great, and as though you have accomplished something on your own?”* (Living)

2 Timothy 3:1-2 – [1] *“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. [2] People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy...they will consider nothing sacred.”* (NIV & New King James Version)

2. I STOP ASKING GOD FOR HELP

Matthew 7:7a – *“Ask and it will be given to you...”* (NIV)

Matthew 7:11b – *“...how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”* (NIV)

Matthew 21:22 – *“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”* (NIV)

James 1:5a – *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all...”* (NIV)

James 4:2b – *“You do not have, because you do not ask God.”* (NIV)

Hebrews 4:16 – *“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”* (NIV)

3. I STOP TRUSTING GOD TO PRESERVE MY FAITH

1 Timothy 1:15, 18-20 – [15a] *“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners . . . [18a] Timothy, my son... [19] hold on to your faith in Christ and keep a good conscience. Some have violated their consciences and as a result have shipwrecked their faith. [20a] Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander...”* (NIV & New Living)

Psalm 16:2 – *“I said, ‘You are my Lord! Every good thing I have comes from you!’”* (New King James Version)

4. I BECOME PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE

Psalm 27:13-14 – [13] *“I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. [14] Wait for the Lord; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.”* (New American Standard Bible)

If you're discouraged or depressed...

[1] Focus on the ways God has been good to you. Make a list.

[2] Be a part of this series over the next few weeks.

A biblical definition of hope: Anticipating God's goodness.

BENEFITS OF GOD'S GOODNESS
PSALM 23

All of these are under the heading "Because God is Good":

1. THE LORD WILL MEET MY NEEDS SO I LACK NOTHING!

Psalm 23:1 – *"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."* (NIV)

2. THE LORD WILL TEACH ME TO RELAX WHEN I'M STRESSED OUT!

Psalm 23:2 – *"He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters."* (NIV)

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

Psalm 23:3a – *"He refreshes my soul."* (NIV)

Psalm 23:3a – *"He gives me new strength."* (New Century)

4. THE LORD WILL GUIDE ME WHEN I'M CONFUSED!

Psalm 23:3b – *"He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."* (NIV)

5. THE LORD WILL WALK WITH ME IN MY DARK AND FEARFUL DAYS!

Psalm 23:4a – *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."* (NIV)

6. THE LORD WILL COMFORT ME WHEN I FEEL INSECURE!

Psalm 23:4b – *"Your rod and your staff, they comfort me."* (NIV)

7. THE LORD WILL PUBLICLY SHOW HIS GRACE TO ME!

Psalm 23:5 – *"You prepare a banquet before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."* (NIV & Good News)

God made known His mercy and grace to Paul so the people around him could be saved (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

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

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

9. THE LORD WILL TAKE ME TO HEAVEN ONE DAY!

Psalm 23b – *“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* (NIV)

John 10:10b-11 – [10b] *“My purpose is to give life in all its fullness. [11] ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’”* (New Living & Good News)