

fall all over me

"then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you." exo 33:19

oh, the goodness of God. obviously God equates His goodness with His glory. i wonder what God allowed moses to see that day? what does goodness look like? can others see in us, even a shadow of what moses glimpsed? questions, questions, questions.

i think i've told the story before about we used to sing the verse, "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me." and there was a young child in the mix that didn't know the words correctly. one day his mother heard him singing instead, "fall all over me." needless to say, that became our verse from them on. isn't that what we really need and want - His goodness and mercy to fall all over us.

psalm 23 is likely very familiar to those of us who have been around the church for any length of time. it's a classic portion of scripture, one that eighty-year-old saints know by heart and one that most were coached to memorize as young children. like many familiar things, however, the beauty and wonder of these six verses can be easily lost and we can fail to experience the comfort and confidence that can be derived from them.

david testifies of God's loving leading to quiet, restful places, as well as God's steadfast presence and help in fearful, dangerous places. in short, david

says that there is nowhere we can go where God is not with us. "where can i go from Your Spirit? or where can i flee from Your presence?" psalms 139:7 truthfully, there is no life-altering change that we will ever have to walk through alone. God is with us in the joy-filled moments, as well as tear-filled ones. His goodness and mercy follow us anywhere we go.

even if the path we walk is so difficult that we lose our earthly lives, our eternal destination remains safe and secure. even if we have seen beloved family members, friends, and fellow saints suffer or even die? those experiences certainly don't feel like the gifts of a good and merciful God, and yet - God's goodness shouts louder than the circumstances, through faith.

perhaps our struggle with this question is that we expect God's goodness and mercy to look a particular way: good health, no loss, no pain, a secure job, full bank account, and family harmony. we expect eden. but ever since adam and eve's rebellion, every person ever born has lived in a sin-ridden world with trials and heartaches. and yet, in the midst of this broken world, scripture upholds the reality of God's goodness and mercy. for joseph, God's goodness and mercy included betrayal and slavery in a foreign land. for naomi and ruth, God's goodness and mercy included the loss of their husbands. sarah, hannah, and elizabeth saw God's goodness and mercy throughout years of painful infertility.

in His sovereignty, God often seems to display his goodness and mercy in the midst of, or in the wake of, suffering and loss. God also delights in redeeming our

sufferings with blessings, either here on earth, or in eternity future. even if our lives are filled with pain and loss here on earth and we see his goodness and mercy dimly, we can know that we will see and experience the fullness of God's blessings in the eternal home he promises to us in heaven.

so yes, surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life. it will fall all over us. i believe these words are true. do you?

so what does goodness look like? it doesn't look like we always expect it to look like, but it does always look like Jesus.

in all my trials, great or small
my confidence shall be
unshaken as i cry, dear Lord
i place my trust in Thee.

oh sweet Savior, may Thy face
smile on my soul all free
oh may i cry with rapturous love
i've placed my trust in Thee