

Finding Our Knees in 2019

Psalm 100:5

"Who's Calling Please"

Your understanding of what God is really like shapes everything else in your life, including how you pray. What is your "picture of God?" A. W. Tozer wrote "what comes to your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you, because it affects everything else in your life."

"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 (LB)

What is God really like? God is all-knowing, all powerful, He is everywhere at all times, holy, just, kind, loving, and God is faithful. God is our friend.

BECAUSE GOD IS ALWAYS GOOD . . .

1. God's plans for my life will always be good

"I know what I've planned for you," says the Lord. "I have GOOD plans for you, not plans to hurt you! My plans will give you HOPE and a GOOD future. And when you call to me and pray to me, I will listen to you!" Jer. 29:11 (NCV)

The more you pray, the more you're going to understand God's plan for your life. Psalm 31:19

"We know that God causes everything to work together for the GOOD of those who love God and are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 (NLT)

Joseph: "Your plan was to hurt me, but God turned your evil plan into a GOOD plan to save the lives of many people!" (this is redemptive suffering) Gen. 50:20

Happiness in life depends on what you know, not what you go through. (Rom. 5:3)

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 and removed them as far as the east is from the west!" Psalm 103:10, 12

"Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close . . . my enemies are waiting for me to fall, Yet I remain confident that I'll see the GOODNESS of the Lord while I'm living here in the world." Ps. 27:10-13 (NLT) See also Psalm 51

"(Jesus) understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly with confidence to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find the grace to help us when we need it." Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT)

How do you know God is good? Because everything he does in the world is good. God's plan for your life is always good, He will always steer you in the right direction.

3. God puts my good above his own good

"I am the GOOD shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me...And I will sacrifice my life for my sheep." John 10:14-15

"Jesus died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God, filling us with God's GOODNESS." Romans 4:25 (LB)

"Since God did not spare even his own Son but gave Christ up for us all, won't he now also give us everything else we need?" (This is the heart of the gospel.) also Rom. 15:13

"For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!" 2 Cor. 5:21 (TLB) God sees goodness in you because of Jesus. Rom 4:25

"Since God didn't spare even his own Son, but gave Christ up for us all, won't he now also give us everything else we need?" Romans 8:32

4. He does not say yes to every request

See Luke 11:11-13 (NLT) God answers prayers by: no, slow, grow, and go!

Jesus replied, "You don't realize what you are asking for!" Matt. 20:22 (NLT)

The test of faith is how straight you walk when everything is horrible. Your job is to keep praying, keep trusting God with the answer, because you know that everything He does and everything He allows in your life, He will use for good. See also Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

5. He invites us to live with him forever

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, then I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!" Ps. 23:6 (NIV) See also 2 Thess. 2:16-17

Until you're absolutely convinced that God is a good God and that he's always good and that he never does bad in your life, until you understand the goodness of God, your prayers are going to be powerless and passionless and pointless. (remember James 4:2)

PRAY THIS DAILY AND OFTEN

"Lord, keep me from paying attention to what is worthless. (Instead) let me live by your Word... I want to obey your principles. Please RENEW my life with your GOODNESS!" Ps 119:37, 39-40

Father God, please revive my heart, my family, this church, the United Methodist Church and our country. Please be the "lion of Judah" in every area of my life and chase my fears away. Thank you, in Jesus' name I pray.

"Bring us back to you, God; we're ready to come back. Give us a fresh start." Lam. 5:21 (Message)