

## IS GOD REALLY GOOD ALL THE TIME?

Living in the Goodness of God  
Rick Warren

*"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 (TLB)

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I FORGET GOD'S GOODNESS?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"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?"* 1 Corinthians 4:7 (TLB)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"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 11:13 (NLT)  
*"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 4:16 (NLT)  
*"Answer me, LORD, out of the goodness of your love."* Psalm 69:16 (NIV)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Protect me, God, because I trust in you. I said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord. Every good thing I have comes from you.'" Psalm 16:1-2 (NCV)  
*"We also have joy with our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience." Romans 5:3 (NCV)  
*"And we know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him, and are called according to his good purpose." Romans 8:28 (NCV)***
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD." Psalm 27:13-14 (NASB95)*

HOPE: IS \_\_\_\_\_

PSALM 23: BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD . . .

1. HE WILL \_\_\_\_\_  
*"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing." Psalm 23:1 (NIV)*
2. HE WILL \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He makes me lie down in green pastures, and he leads me beside quiet waters." Psalm 23:2 (NIV)*
3. HE WILL \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He restores my soul." Psalm 23:3 (ESV)  
"He gives me new strength." Psalm 23:3 (GNT)*
4. HE WILL \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake." Psalm 23:3 (NIV)*
5. HE WILL \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me." Psalm 23:4 (ESV)*
6. HE WILL \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 (NIV)*
7. HE WILL \_\_\_\_\_  
*"You prepare a banquet for me while my enemies watch. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows." Psalm 23:5 (GW)*
8. HE WILL \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life." Psalm 23:6 (NIV)*
9. HE WILL \_\_\_\_\_  
*"And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:6 (NIV)  
"My purpose is to give life in all its fullness. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:10-11 (TLB)*

## Next Steps

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## LETTING GOD MEET MY NEEDS

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*"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing."* Psalm 23:1 (NIV)
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*"God will supply all that you need from his glorious resources in Christ Jesus."*  
Philippians 4:19 (PHILLIPS)
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*"Don't worry about anything! Instead, pray about everything."*  
Philippians 4:6 (TLB)

## WHY DOES GOD TELL ME NOT TO WORRY? (Matthew 6:25-34)

1. 

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*"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"*  
Matthew 6:25 (NIV)
2. 

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*"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"*  
Matthew 6:26 (NIV)  
  
*"And why worry about your clothes? Look at the field lilies! They don't worry about theirs. Yet King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as beautifully as they." Matthew 6:28-29 (TLB)*
3. 

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*"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"* Matthew 6:27 (BSB)  
  
*"Worry weighs us down."* Proverbs 12:25 (MSG)
4. 

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*"If God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you?"* Matthew 6:30 (TLB)

5. 

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*"People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things."*  
Matthew 6:32 (MSG)  
  
*"Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. 'Believe in God and believe also in me.'" John 14:1 (GNT)*

## HOW DO I TRUST JESUS TO MEET MY NEEDS?

1. 

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*"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me . . . and I lay down my life for the sheep." John 10:14-15 (NIV)*  
  
*"Come save us and bless us. Be our shepherd and always carry us in your arms." Psalm 28:9 (CEV)*
2. 

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*"Your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need [food and clothing], and he will give them to you if you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to." Matthew 6:32-33 (TLB)*
3. 

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*"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you."*  
1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)  
  
*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand."*  
Philippians 4:6-7 (TLB)
4. 

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*"Don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34 (NCV)*  
  
*"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes." Matthew 6:34 (MSG)*

*Next Step*

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## RELAXING IN GOD'S GOODNESS

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*"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters." Psalm 23:1-2 (NIV)*

THESE IMAGES REPRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

### WHY DO PEOPLE OVERWORK & NOT GET ENOUGH REST?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Only someone too stupid to find his way home would wear himself out with work."  
Ecclesiastes 10:15 (GNT)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich; restrain yourself!"  
Proverbs 23:4 (MSG)*  
  
*"Your money can be gone in a flash, as if it had grown wings and flown away like an eagle." Proverbs 23:5 (GNT)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"I have also learned why people work so hard to succeed: it is because they envy the things their neighbors have." Ecclesiastes 4:4 (GNT)*
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Once again I saw that nothing on earth makes sense. For example, some people don't have friends or family. But they are never satisfied with what they own, and they never stop working to get more. They should ask themselves, 'Why am I always working to have more? Who will get what I leave behind?' What a senseless and miserable life! You are better having a friend than to be all alone, because then you will get more enjoyment out of what you earn."  
Ecclesiastes 4:7-9 (CEV)*
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"We work to feed our appetites; meanwhile our souls go hungry."  
Ecclesiastes 6:7 (MSG)*  
  
*"It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you will starve to death; for God wants his loved ones to get their proper rest."  
Psalm 127:2 (TLB)*

### HOW DO I RELAX IN GOD'S GOODNESS?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God decided to give us life through the word of truth to make us his most important creatures." James 1:18 (GW)*  
  
*"I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." Isaiah 49:16 (GW)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Yet a very little food eaten in peace is better than twice as much earned from overwork and chasing the wind." Ecclesiastes 4:6 (CEV)*  
  
*"All of us should . . . enjoy what we have worked for. It is God's gift."  
Ecclesiastes 3:13 (GNT)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me." Exodus 20:9-10 (GNT)*
  - **"SABBATH" MEANS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"The Sabbath was made to benefit man." Mark 2:27 (TLB)*
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"  
Mark 8:36 (NIV)*
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Look at the birds in the air. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds. You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it."  
Matthew 6:26-27(NCV)*  
  
*"And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. It is God who clothes the wild grass—grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you?" Matthew 6:28-30 (GNT)*  
  
*"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)*

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## HOW GOD'S GOODNESS CAN RESTORE YOU

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*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."*  
Psalm 23:1-3 (ESV)

### MY SOUL IS THE PART OF ME \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHAT DAMAGES MY SOUL?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do."* Job 5:2 (GNT)  
*"You are only hurting yourself with your anger."* Job 18:4 (GNT)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. . . . I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning."*  
 Psalm 38:4, 6 (NIV)  
*"The Lord gave us mind and conscience; we cannot hide from ourselves."*  
 Proverbs 20:27 (GNT)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Lord, have mercy, because I am in misery. My eyes are weak from so much crying, and my whole being is tired from grief."* Psalm 31:9 (NCV)

#### HOW DOES JESUS RESTORE IT?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"[The Lord] protects me like a strong, walled city, and he loves me. He is my defender and my Savior, my shield and my protection."* Psalm 144:2 (NCV)  
*"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* Romans 8:28 (NIV)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (AT THE CROSS)  
*"He was wounded and crushed because of our sins. . . ."* Isaiah 53:5 (CEV)

*". . . He was punished so that we could have peace, and we received healing from his wounds."* Isaiah 53:5 (GW)

*"All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all."* Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

*"He was beaten down and punished, but he didn't say a word. He was like a lamb being led to be killed."* Isaiah 53:7 (NCV)

*"He was condemned to death without a fair trial. . . ."* Isaiah 53:8 (CEV)

*". . . He was put to death for the sins of our people."* Isaiah 53:8 (GNT)

*"He was put to death for the sins of our people. He was placed in a grave with those who are evil, he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie. The Lord says, 'It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. . . . After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain. My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them. . . . He willingly gave his life and shared the fate of evil men. He took the place of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven.'"*  
Isaiah 53:8-12 (GNT)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down."* Isaiah 53:3-4 (NLT)  
*"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."* Psalm 147:3 (NIV)  
*"To all who mourn...he will give: beauty for ashes; joy instead of mourning; praise instead of heaviness."* Isaiah 61:3 (TLB)

#### HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"All have sinned. . . . Yet now God declares us 'not guilty' of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins."*  
 Romans 3:23-24 (TLB)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Get rid of all bitterness . . . forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*  
 Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)  
*"Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it."* Romans 12:19 (TLB)

3.

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*“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.”* Isaiah 43:2 (NLT)

*“The Law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.”* Psalm 19:7 (NASB)

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## HOW TO BE LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT

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*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Psalm 23:1-3 (ESV)*

*"Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are his children."  
Romans 8:14 (CEV)*

### 5 STOPS: I MUST STOP BEING LED . . .

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2 (NLT)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Do not let anyone lead you the wrong way. Christ is righteous. So to be like Christ a person must do what is right. . . . Anyone who continues to sin belongs to the devil." 1 John 3:7 (NCV)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Don't practice divination, sorcery, fortunetelling, witchery, casting spells, holding séances, or channeling with the dead. People who do these things are an abomination to God." Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (MSG)*
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.' . . . When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along."  
Acts 27: 10, 13-15 (NIV)*
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"You may think you are on the right road and still end up dead."  
Proverbs 14:12 (CEV)*

*"We—every one of us—have strayed away like sheep! We, who left God's paths to follow our own." Isaiah 53:6 (TLB)*

### 5 STEPS TO GETTING GUIDANCE

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"My God, I want to do what you want. Your teachings are in my heart."  
Psalm 40:8 (NCV)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Whoever is willing to do what God wants will know whether what I teach comes from God." John 7:17 (GNT)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."  
Psalm 119:105 (NLT)*  
*"Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by evil."  
Psalm 119:133 (NLT)*
  - **GOD'S WILL IS FOUND IN \_\_\_\_\_!**
  - **GOD'S WILL \_\_\_\_\_ GOD'S WORD!**
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"You do not have because you do not ask God." James 4:2 (NIV)*  
*"Teach me, LORD, what you want me to do, and lead me along a safe path."  
Psalm 27:11 (GNT)*
  - \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way."  
Psalm 25:9 (NIV)*
  - \_\_\_\_\_  
*"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him. . . . But . . . be sure that you really expect him to tell you. . . . If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer."  
James 1:5-6, 8 (TLB)*
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God does speak — sometimes one way and sometimes another — even though people may not understand it." Job 33:14 (NCV)*

*“Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters— a pathway no one knew was there!” Psalm 77:19 (NLT)*

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## THE GOD OF MY VALLEYS

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*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."*  
Psalm 23:1-4 (ESV)

*"The prophet went to Ahab and said, 'The Syrians think the LORD is a god of the hills and not of the valleys. So he has promised to help you defeat their powerful army. Then you will know that the LORD is in control.'"*  
1 Kings 20:28 (CEV)

### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT VALLEYS

#### 1. VALLEYS

*"The land you're about to enter is a land with hills and valleys."*  
Deuteronomy 11:11 (GW)

*"Do not be surprised at the painful test you are suffering, as though something unusual were happening to you."* 1 Peter 4:12 (GNT)

#### 2. VALLEYS

*"The good man does not escape all troubles — he has them too. But the Lord helps him in each and every one."* Psalm 34:19 (TLB)

#### 3. VALLEYS

*"Don't brag about tomorrow, since you don't know what the day will bring."*  
Proverbs 27:1 (NLT)

### WHAT KIND OF VALLEYS TO EXPECT

#### Significant Valleys in the Bible

#### • THE VALLEY OF SIDDIM (GENESIS 14:1-11)

*"The valley was full of tar pits, and when [they] tried to run away from the battle, they fell into the pits." Genesis 14:10 (GNT)*

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#### • THE VALLEY OF ESHCOL (NUMBERS 13:23-33)

*"We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." Numbers 13:33 (NIV)*

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#### • THE VALLEY OF ELAH (1 SAMUEL 17:1-58)

*"The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them." 1 Samuel 17:3 (NIV)*

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#### • THE VALLEY OF BACA (PSALM 84:5-7)

*"Blessed are those whose strength is in [the LORD], whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs." Psalm 84:5-6 (NIV)*

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### WHAT TO REMEMBER IN A VALLEY

#### 1. REMEMBER

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

*"When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up—the flames will not consume you."*  
Isaiah 43:2 (TLB)

*"As for me, God's presence is all I need. I have made the sovereign LORD my shelter." Psalm 74:28 (NET)*

#### 2. REMEMBER

*"We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts."*  
Romans 5:3-5 (ESV)

*"I will . . . transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope."*  
Hosea 2:15 (NLT)

### 3. REMEMBER

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*“For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!”*

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

*“Our suffering is light and temporary and is producing for us an eternal glory that is greater than anything we can imagine.”* 2 Corinthians 4:17 (GW)

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## HOW JESUS TREATS HIS SHEEP

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Psalm 23:1-6 (ESV)

### WHAT'S A ROD & A STAFF?

- A ROD IS A TOOL \_\_\_\_\_
- A STAFF IS A TOOL \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THESE METAPHORS?

#### 1. THE ROD REPRESENTS \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. THE STAFF REPRESENTS \_\_\_\_\_

*"Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep."* Hebrews 13:20 (NIV)

*"I came so that my sheep will have life and so that they will have everything they need. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep."*  
John 10:10-11 (GW)

### HOW DOES JESUS TREAT HIS SHEEP?

#### 1. IF I BRING HIM MY HURTS \_\_\_\_\_

*"When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion and pity for them, because they were dispirited and distressed, like sheep without a shepherd."*  
Matthew 9:36 (AMP)

*"When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them because they were hurting and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."* Matthew 9:36 (NCV)

*"And what pity he felt for the crowds that came, because their problems were so great and they didn't know what to do or where to go for help. They were like sheep without a shepherd."* Matthew 9:36 (TLB)

*"I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 (TLB)*

#### 2. IF I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW HIM \_\_\_\_\_

*"He leads me along the right paths for His name's sake." Psalm 23:3 (HCSB)*

*"[A shepherd] walks ahead of [the sheep]; and they follow him, for they recognize his voice." John 10:4 (TLB)*

*"Your constant love is my guide; your faithfulness always leads me." Psalm 26:3 (GNT)*

#### 3. IF I GET CONFUSED & WANDER OFF \_\_\_\_\_

*"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost?"* Matthew 18:12 (NLT)

*"I, the Messiah, have come to search for and to save such souls as his." Luke 19:10 (TLB)*

*"I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word. You are good and do only good; teach me your decrees."*  
Psalm 119:67-68 (NLT)

#### 4. IF I FAIL OR FALL \_\_\_\_\_

*"[Jesus] said to them, 'If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep!'"* Matthew 12:11-12 (NIV)

*"You made me suffer a lot, but you will bring me back from this deep pit and give me new life." Psalm 71:20 (CEV)*

*"You need not be afraid of sudden disaster or the destruction that comes upon the wicked, for the LORD is your security. He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap." Proverbs 3:25-26 (NLT)*

#### 5. IF I TRUST HIM TO SAVE ME \_\_\_\_\_

*"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die, and no one can steal them out of my hand. My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father's hand."* John 10:27-29 (NCV)

“Jesus has the power of God, by which *he* has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. We have these things *because we know him.*”

2 Peter 1:3 (NCV)

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## HOW GOD LIFTS ME UP WHEN I'M WORN DOWN

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Rick Warren

"You prepare a banquet for me while my enemies watch." Psalm 23:5 (GW)

"You prepare a meal for me in front of my enemies." Psalm 23:5 (NCV)

### WHAT KIND OF BANQUET IS THIS?

- \_\_\_\_\_ "You"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Prepare"  
"You prepare a table..." שולחן = shulchan
- \_\_\_\_\_ "For me"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "In front of"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "my enemies"

### WHAT FORCES OPPOSE GOD'S BEST FOR ME?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
"In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer. . . . For I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (AMPC)

"Don't love the world and what it offers. Those who love the world don't have the Father's love in them. Not everything that the world offers- physical gratification, greed, and extravagant lifestyles-comes from the Father. It comes from the world, and the world and its evil desires are passing away. But the person who does what God wants lives forever." 1 John 2:15-17 (GW)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
"Be careful—watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy."  
1 Peter 5:8 (TLB)

"Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world." Ephesians 6:12 (NCV)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
"However, I see a different standard [at work] throughout my body. It is at war with the standards my mind sets and tries to take me captive to sin's standards which still exist throughout my body." Romans 7:23 (GW)

### WHAT DOES THIS BANQUET SYMBOLIZE?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
"You'll welcome us with open arms when we run for cover to you. Let the party last all night! Stand guard over our celebration." Psalm 5:11 (MSG)

"God is gently calling you from the jaws of trouble to an open place of freedom where he has set your table full of the best food." Job 36:16 (NCV)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
"How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world." Psalm 31:19 (NLT)

"How wonderful are the good things you keep for those who honor you!"  
Psalm 31:19 (GNT)

### WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

\_\_\_\_\_   
"How sweet the taste of your promise is! It tastes sweeter than honey."  
Psalm 119:103 (GW)

"Find out for yourself how good the LORD is." Psalm 34:8 (GNT)

"How precious, O God, is your constant love! We find protection under the shadow of your wings. We feast on the abundant food you provide; you let us drink from the river of your goodness. You are the source of all life, and because of your light we see the light." Psalm 36:7-9 (GNT)

### ONE DAY: THE GREATEST BANQUET OF ALL!

"On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of . . . the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. . . . In that day they will say, 'Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.'" Isaiah 25:6-9 (NIV)

## Next Steps

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## LIVING AN ANOINTED LIFE

Living in the Goodness of God  
Rick Warren

*"You anoint my head with oil."* Psalm 23:5 (NIV)

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ANOINTED?

- **ANOINTED BY GOD:** (Internal) When God's Holy Spirit gives you *insight, ability, stamina, authority or protection* that you don't normally have in order to do a job that He has chosen you to do!
- **ANOINTED BY PEOPLE:** (External) When someone prayerfully applies some oil to your skin as an *outward sign* of what God is doing *inside you*.

(In the Bible, *oil* is often used as a symbol of God's approval, presence, blessing, power, comfort, healing, joy, favor, prosperity, and authority.)

### FACTS ABOUT GOD'S ANOINTING

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."* 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NIV)
2. **GOD'S ANOINTING** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it over Saul's head, and kissed him on the cheek and said, 'I am doing this because the Lord has appointed you to be the king of his people, Israel! . . . At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come mightily upon you and you will prophesy with them, and you will feel and act like a different person. From that time on your decisions should be based on whatever seems best under the circumstances, for the Lord will guide you."*  
1 Samuel 10:1, 6-7 (TLB)
3. **GOD'S ANOINTING** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit."* Ephesians 3:16 (TLB)  
  
*"I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power."* Philippians 4:13 (TLB)
4. **GOD'S ANOINTING** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"What is impossible for people is possible with God."* Luke 18:27 (NLT)

*"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."* Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

5. **GOD ANOINTS MY LIFE** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the suffering and afflicted. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted, to announce liberty to captives, and to open the eyes of the blind. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of God's favor to them has come . . . To all who mourn in Israel he will give: beauty for ashes; joy instead of mourning; praise instead of heaviness."* Isaiah 61:1-3 (TLB)
6. **FOR EVERY NEW CHALLENGE** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will reap a crop of my love; plow the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower salvation upon you."* Hosea 10:12 (TLB)  
  
*"You do not have because you do not ask God."* James 4:2 (NIV)  
  
*"The LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless."* Psalm 84:11 (NIV)

### 2 EXAMPLES

- **WHEN GOD ANOINTS YOUR BUSINESS:**  
*"The Lord greatly blessed Joseph . . . so that everything he did succeeded."*  
Genesis 39:2 (TLB)

#### DAVID GREEN'S STORY

*"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."*  
Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)

- **WHEN GOD ANOINTS YOUR BODY:**  
*"If you are sick, call for the church leaders. Have them pray for you and anoint you with olive oil in the name of the Lord. (Prayers offered in faith will save those who are sick, and the Lord will cure them.) If you have sinned, you will be forgiven. So admit your sins to each other, and pray for each other so that you will be healed. Prayers offered by those who have God's approval are effective."* James 5:14-16 (GW)  
  
*"The anointing you received from Christ lives in you."* 1 John 2:27 (GW)

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## FROM OVERWHELMED TO OVERFLOWING

Living in the Goodness of God  
Rick Warren

### 2 WAYS TO APPROACH LIFE

#### 1. A SHORTAGE MINDSET: \_\_\_\_\_

(Bible words: *Lacking, Wanting, Need*)

THE FOCUS: \_\_\_\_\_

THE RESULT: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. A SURPLUS mindset: \_\_\_\_\_

(Bible words: *Abundance, Abounding, Plentiful*)

THE FOCUS: \_\_\_\_\_

THE RESULT: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PSALM 23:5

"You fill my cup to overflowing." (NCV)  
"You give me more than I can hold." (ICB)  
"My cup overflows." (NIV)

#### WHAT'S MY CUP? \_\_\_\_\_

"On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus was standing [in the temple courtyard]. He said loudly, 'Whoever is thirsty must come to me to drink. As Scripture says, "Streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me." John 7:37-38 (GW)

#### WHAT IS AN OVERFLOWING LIFE?

- \_\_\_\_\_

"I am the holy Lord God, the one who rescues you. For your own good, I teach you, and I lead you along the right path. How I wish that you had obeyed my commands! Your success and good fortune would then have overflowed like a flooding river." Isaiah 48:17-18 (CEV)

"I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)." John 10:10 (AMPC)

#### HOW CAN I EXPERIENCE AN OVERFLOWING LIFE?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NLT)  
"But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!" John 15:7 (NLT)  
"But if you stay in me and obey my commands, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! My true disciples produce bountiful harvests. This brings great glory to my Father. . . . Live within my love. When you obey me you are living in my love. . . . I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your cup of joy will overflow!" John 15:7-11 (TLB)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
"In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing." Philippians 2:14 (TLB)  
"Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done." Colossians 2:7 (TLB)  
"No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (TLB)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
"It's healthy to be content, but envy can eat you up." Proverbs 14:30 (CEV)  
"It is better to be content with what little you have. Otherwise, you will always be struggling for more, and that is like chasing the wind." Ecclesiastes 4:6 (NCV)
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
"Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop . . ." 2 Corinthians 9:6 (MSG)  
"Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)  
"Besides, God is able to make every blessing of yours overflow for you, so that in every situation you will always have all you need for any good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8 (ISV)  
"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and put Me to the test now in this,' says the LORD of armies, 'if I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.'" Malachi 3:10 (NASB)  
"For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running

*over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you.” Luke 6:38 (TLB)*

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## WHY YOU DON'T NEED TO FEAR YOUR FUTURE

Living in the Goodness of God  
Rick Warren

*"Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will  dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6 (BSB)*

### I DON'T NEED TO FEAR THE FUTURE . . .

#### 1. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

*"Surely goodness . . . will follow me all the days of my life . . ."* Psalm 23:6 (BSB)

*"The LORD watches over all who love him." Psalm 145:20 (NIV)*

*"[God] orders his angels to protect you wherever you go." Psalm 91:11 (TLB)*

*"We know that all that happens to us is working for our good IF we love God and are fitting into his plans." Romans 8:28 (TLB)*

#### 2. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

*"Surely . . . mercy will follow me all the days of my life . . ."* Psalm 23:6 (BSB)

*"I will have mercy on you through my grace." Isaiah 60:10 (TLB)*

*"I will . . . not forget the glorious things [the Lord] does for me. He forgives all my sins. He heals me. He ransoms 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 all 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." Psalm 103:2-5, 8-11, 13 (TLB)*

*"We can come before God's throne where there is grace. There we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it." Hebrews 4:16 (NCV)*

#### 3. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

*". . . and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:6 (BSB)*

*"[God] also wanted to reveal his abundant glory, which was poured out on us who are the objects of his mercy, those of us whom he has prepared to receive his glory." Romans 9:23 (GNT)*

## HOW TO LIVE FULLY & FEARLESSLY

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ BECAUSE GOD IS SO GOOD TO ME

*"Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his mercy endures forever." Psalm 118:29 (GW)*

*"Let us be thankful, then, because we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Let us be grateful and worship God in a way that will please him, with reverence and awe." Hebrews 12:28 (GNT)*

*"You have been treated generously, so live generously." Matthew 10:8 (MSG)*

*"Give as freely as you have received!" Matthew 10:8 (NLT)*

*"Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice. Surely the righteous will never be shaken."*

Psalm 112:5-6 (NIV)

*"They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the LORD to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. They share freely and give generously to those in need. . . . They will have influence and honor."*

Psalm 112:7-9 (NLT)

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ BECAUSE GOD IS SO GRACIOUS WITH ME

*"Be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ." Ephesians 4:32 (CEV)*

*"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."*

1 John 4:18 (NIV)

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ BECAUSE HE WILL SHARE HIS GLORY WITH ME

*"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 (ESV)*

*"We have everything we need to live a life that pleases God. It was all given to us by God's own power, when we learned he had invited us to share in his wonderful goodness." 2 Peter 1:3 (CEV)*

*Next Step*

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## HEAVEN: GOD'S ETERNAL GOODNESS TO YOU

Living in the Goodness of God  
Rick Warren

*"Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:6 (BSB)*

*"(It is God's kindness that saved you.) God has brought us back to life together with Christ Jesus and has given us a position in heaven with him. He did this through Christ Jesus out of his generosity to us in order to show his extremely rich kindness in the world to come." Ephesians 2:5-7 (GW)*

### WHAT IS HEAVEN?

- **IT'S A \_\_\_\_\_ NOT A STATE OF BEING**  
*"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:2-3 (NIV)*
- **IT'S A \_\_\_\_\_ THAT'LL LAST FOREVER**  
*"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."  
2 Corinthians 5:1 (NIV)*
- **IT'S A \_\_\_\_\_ FOR ONLY GOD'S FAMILY**  
*"Nothing unclean, no one who does anything detestable, and no liars will ever enter it. Only those whose names are written in the lamb's Book of Life will enter it." Revelation 21:27 (GW)*

### HOW IS HEAVEN DIFFERENT?

*"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)*

### What is **NOT** in heaven

### WHAT WILL WE DO IN HEAVEN?

1. **WE WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_**  
*"There will be one huge family reunion with the Master."  
1 Thessalonians 4:17 (MSG)*
2. **WE WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_**  
*"Know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Colossians 3:24 (NIV)*
3. **WE WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_**  
*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"  
Matthew 25:21 (NIV)*

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