

## IS GOD REALLY GOOD ALL THE TIME?

Living in the Goodness of God – Rick Warren  
Parts 1-3

*"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 accomplished it all on your own?"* 1 Corinthians 4:7 (TLB)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus: *"If you, as imperfect parents, know how to give good gifts to your own children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him?"* Luke 11:13 (NLT)  
  
*"Let us come boldly to the throne of our good and gracious God. There we will receive his mercy and find grace to help us when we need it!"* Hebrews 4:16  
  
David: *"Answer me, O Lord, out of the goodness of your love."* Psalm 69:16 (NIV)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Protect me, God, because I trust in you. You are my Lord! And every good thing I have comes from you!"* Psalm 16:1-2 (ICB/NCV)  
  
Paul: *"We can have joy even in our troubles, because we know that these troubles are good for us, producing patience . . . and character . . . and hope!"*  
Romans 5:3 (NLT/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'd see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Instead I thought 'Wait for the Lord! Be strong and let your heart take courage! Yes, wait for the Lord!'"* Psalm 27:13-14 (NAS)

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

## PSALM 23: BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD . . .

1. **HE WILL** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"The Lord is my shepherd, I will lack nothing."* Psalm 23:1
2. **HE WILL** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He makes me lie down in green pastures, and he leads me beside quiet waters."*  
Psalm 23:2
3. **HE WILL** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He restores my soul."* Psalm 23:3  
  
*"He gives me new strength."* Psalm 23:3 (NCV)
4. **HE WILL** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He guides me in the right paths for his name's sake."* Psalm 23:3
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
6. **HE WILL** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Your rod and your staff, they comfort me."* Psalm 23:4
7. **HE WILL** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"You prepare a banquet for me in front of all my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."* Psalm 23:5
8. **HE WILL** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life."* Psalm 23:6
9. **HE WILL** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* Psalm 23:6  
  
Jesus: *"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 (NLT)

Next Step

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## LETTING GOD MEET MY NEEDS

Living in the Goodness of God – Rick Warren  
Parts 1-3

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*"The Lord is my Shepherd, I will lack nothing!"* Psalm 23:1
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*"God will supply all you'll ever 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'll eat or drink, and don't worry about your body, or what you'll wear. Your life is far more important than clothes."*  
Matthew 6:25
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 (NIV)

*"Worry weighs us down."* Proverbs 12:25 (The Message)
4. 

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*"If God cares so wonderfully even for the 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—they worry over these things."*  
Matthew 6:32 (The Message)

Jesus: *"Don't be worried! Believe in God and believe in me!"* John 14:1 (GNT)

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

1. 

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Jesus: *"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me . . . and I lay down my life for my sheep."* John 10:14-15 (NLT)

*"Come save us and bless us Lord! 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 what you need, and he will give you what you need IF you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to."* Matthew 6:32-33
3. 

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*"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you."*  
1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God about all your needs and thank him for all he's done for you. If you do this things, 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 (The Message)

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## RELAXING IN GOD'S GOODNESS

Living in the Goodness of God – Rick Warren  
Parts 1-4

*"The Lord is my Shepherd so I have everything I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures, and he leads me beside quiet water." Psalm 23:1-2*

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

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Only someone too foolish to find his way home would wear himself out with work!" Ecclesiastes 10:15 (GNT)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Do not wear yourself out trying to get rich; Have the wisdom to show some restraint! Your money can be gone in a flash as if it had grown wings and flown away like an eagle!" Proverbs 23:4-5 (NIV/GNT)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"I've learned why people work so hard to succeed; it is because they envy the things their neighbors have." Ecclesiastes 4:4 (GNT)*
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Here's another thing I've seen on earth that makes no sense: Some people don't have any kids or family or even friends, yet they work obsessively, never taking a break. There's no end to their toil and they're never content with what they've done or earned. They never ask 'Why am I always working to do more?' And 'Why don't I let myself enjoy life?' And 'Who cares? Who will get what I leave behind?' What a senseless and miserable way to live! You're better off having someone to enjoy and share the rewards of your work." Ecclesiastes 4:7-9 (The Message/CEV)*
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"We work to feed our appetites, but meanwhile our souls go hungry."  
Ecclesiastes 6:7 (The Message)*  
  
*"It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing and worrying that you won't have enough, 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 so that we might be the most important of everything God has created." James 1:18*  
  
God says, *"I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."* Isaiah 49:16 (GW)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"A little food eaten in peace is better than having 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 to be a day of complete 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 a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"  
Mark 8:36 (NIV)*
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus said, *"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 so much more than the birds. You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it. And why do you worry about anything else? Look at the beauty of the wildflowers in the field . . . They don't worry or overwork . . . but God takes care of them, so you can be sure that will clothe you too!" Matthew 6:26-30*  
  
Jesus: *"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out? 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 (The Message)*

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## HOW GOD'S GOODNESS CAN RESTORE YOU

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Parts 1-3

*"The Lord is MY Shepherd, I have everything I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."*  
Psalm 23:1-3

### 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'm bowed down and brought low; all day long I go about mourning."* Psalm 38:4, 6

*"The Lord gave us a mind and a conscience; we can't hide from ourselves."*  
Proverbs 20:27

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. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God 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

*"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. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He was wounded and crushed for OUR SINS. He was beaten and took OUR PUNISHMENT so that WE might have peace. And through his wounds, OUR WOUNDS ARE HEALED! All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the guilt and sins of us all."*  
Isaiah 53:5-6

*"He was beaten down and punished, but he didn't say a word. He was led out like a lamb to be slaughtered. He was condemned to death without fair judgment . . . Then he was put to death for the transgressions of everyone else. He died like a criminal then was buried with the rich, even though he had done nothing wrong and had never lied. Yet it was God's plan to cause him to suffer and make his life a guilt offering for our sin, a sacrifice to bring forgiveness . . . But after his soul suffers many things, he will enjoy life and joy again! But my Suffering Servant will make many people right with God and he will bear all their sins . . . He willingly gave his life and was treated like a criminal but he took the place of every one who has sinned and he interceded for their forgiveness."* Isaiah 53:5-12

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He was despised and rejected by others. He was a man of sorrows, who endured much pain and suffering; He experienced deep grief but we ignored him and looked the other way. He was hated and we did not care. Yet it was OUR weaknesses that he was carrying and it was OUR sorrows that weighed him down."* Isaiah 53:3-4

*"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 of us have sinned . . . yet God declares us 'not guilty' IF we trust in Jesus Christ, who in mercy freely takes away our sins."* Romans 3:23-24

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Get rid of all bitterness . . . forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you."*  
Ephesians 4:31-32

*"Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said he will repay those who deserve it."* Romans 12:19 (TLB)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you! When you pass through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned up; it will NOT consume you!"* Isaiah 43:2

*"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul."* Psalm 19:7 (NAS)

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## THE GOD OF MY VALLEYS

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Parts 1-3

*“The Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the right paths for his name’s sake. Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me!” Psalm 23:1-4*

God said, “Because the Syrians think that I am only the god of the hills and not that I AM THE GOD OF THE VALLEYS, I’m going to give you victory over this huge army so everyone will know that I am the Lord!” 1 Kings 20:28 (NIV)

### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT VALLEYS

#### 1. VALLEYS

*“The Promised Land you are about to enter is a land of hills and valleys.”  
Deuteronomy 11:11 (NLT)*

*“Don’t be surprised when you are tested by troubles or painful suffering, as if something unusual is 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 ever brag about tomorrow, since you don’t know what the day will bring forth.” Proverbs 27:1 (NLT)*

### WHAT KIND OF VALLEYS TO EXPECT

#### Significant Valleys in the Bible

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

*“This valley was full of sticky tar pits, and when (they) tried to run away from the battle, they slipped and fell in the pits.” Genesis 14:10*

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

*“In our own eyes we felt as small as grasshoppers next to them.”  
Numbers 13:33*

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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 of Elah between them.” 1 Samuel 17:3*

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

*“Blessed are those whose strength comes from the Lord . . . As they pass through the Valley of Baca (WEEPING) they make it a place of springs.” Psalm 84:5-6*

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### WHAT TO REMEMBER IN A VALLEY

#### 1. REMEMBER

*“Even when I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, (Salmawet) I will fear no evil, for you are with me!” Psalm 23:4*

*“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’ve made the sovereign Lord my shelter.”  
Psalm 73:28*

#### 2. REMEMBER

*“We can even rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and that kind of hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured his love 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

*“For our present troubles are quite small and they won’t last very long. Yet they are producing in us an eternal glory that will last forever and is greater than anything we can imagine!” 2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT/GW)*

*Next Step*

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## HOW JESUS TREATS HIS SHEEP

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Parts 1-3

*“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I have everything I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the right paths for his name’s sake. Even when 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 COMFORT ME. You prepare a banquet for me in front of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, and my cup overflows. 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*

### 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 is the **GREAT SHEPHERD** of the sheep.” Hebrews 13:20 (NIV)

Jesus: “I came so that my sheep will have life and everything they need. I AM the GOOD SHEPHERD! The good shepherd gives his life for his sheep.”  
John 10:10-11 (GW)

### HOW DOES JESUS TREAT HIS SHEEP?

1. **IF I BRING HIM MY HURTS** \_\_\_\_\_  
“When Jesus saw the crowds, his heart was filled with compassion for them because they were hurting and didn’t know where to get help. They were like sheep without a shepherd.” Matthew 9:36  
  
Jesus: “I came here not to be served, but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28
2. **IF I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW HIM** \_\_\_\_\_  
“He leads me in the right paths for his name’s sake.” Psalm 23:3 (NRSV)

Jesus: “(The Good 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** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus: “If a shepherd has 100 sheep, and one wanders away and is lost, won’t he leave the 99 safe sheep to go search for the lost one?” Matthew 18:12

Jesus: “I came to seek and save those who are lost.” Luke 19:10

“I used to wander off until you Lord disciplined me, but now I closely follow your word. You are good, and you only do good, so train me in your principles.”  
Psalm 119:67-68 (NLT)

4. **IF I FAIL OR FALL** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus said, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not rescue it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep!”  
Matthew 12:11-12 (NIV)

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

“You never need to be afraid of sudden disaster or hidden troubles that ensnare the wicked, for the Lord is your security. He will keep you safe and keep your foot from getting caught in a trap.” Proverbs 3:25-26

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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Parts 1-3

“You prepare a banquet for me in front of my enemies.” Psalm 23:5

### WHAT KIND OF BANQUET IS THIS?

- \_\_\_\_\_ “You”
- \_\_\_\_\_ “prepare”  
“You prepare a table . . .” *יִחַלְּשֵׁי = shulchan*
- \_\_\_\_\_ “for me”
- \_\_\_\_\_ “in front of”
- \_\_\_\_\_ “my enemies”

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus: “In this world, you will have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration, but take heart . . . because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (AMP)

“Do not love the world or all the things in the world. If you love what the world offers, it shows the Father’s is not in you. For everything the world values—doing anything that feels good and indulging every lust, being driven by greed to always want more, and the prideful pretending to impress others, does not come from God. The world, and all the things people think are important are actually passing away, but the person who does what God says will live forever.” 1 John 2:15-17

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
“Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, who is your great enemy.”  
1 Peter 5:8 (TLB)

“Our fight is not really against people on earth . . . but against the forces of evil in the spiritual world.” Ephesians 6:12

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul: “Inside me, my old nature is at war with my new mind, which wants to do what’s right. But my old self fights back and keeps me struggling with my old patterns and sins.” Romans 7:23

## WHAT DOES THIS BANQUET SYMBOLIZE?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
“You 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 (The Message)

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

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
“Your goodness is so great! You have stored up great blessings for those who honor you. You have done so much for those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.” Psalm 31:19

### WHAT’S ON THE MENU?

\_\_\_\_\_“The promises of your Word taste sweet to me. They taste sweeter than honey in my mouth.” Psalm 119:103

“Learn to savor how good the Lord is!” Psalm 34:8 (NAB)

“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!

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

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## FROM OVERWHELMED TO OVERFLOWING

Living in the Goodness of God – Rick Warren  
Parts 1-3

### 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 day of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds: 'If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! Everyone who really believes in me will have rivers of living water flowing out of their lives.'" John 7:37-38 (NLT)*

#### WHAT IS AN OVERFLOWING LIFE?

• \_\_\_\_\_  
*"I am the holy God, 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! Then your success and good fortune would have OVERFLOWED like a flooding river!"  
Isaiah 48:17-18 (CEV)*

Jesus: *"I've come that you may have real life, and enjoy it in abundance—to the fullest, until it overflows!" John 10:10 (AMP)*

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus: *"I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay connected to me . . . you'll produce a lot of fruit. But you can't do anything without me!"  
John 15:5*

Jesus: *"If you stay connected to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings glory to my Father . . . So, stay connected to my love. You stay connected to my love when you obey me . . . I've told you this so that you'll be filled with my joy. Yes, your cup of joy will OVERFLOW!" John 15:7-11 (NLT/TLB)*

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing."  
Philippians 2:14 (NLT)*

*"Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all God has done."  
Colossians 2:7 (NLT)*

*"No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)*

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"It's healthy to be content, but envy will eat you up." Proverbs 14:30 (CEV)*

*"It is better to be content with what you have than to always be struggling for more. That is like chasing the wind." Ecclesiastes 4:6 (NCV)*

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Remember this: A stingy planter will only reap a small crop. But anyone who sows generously will also reap generously. So, each of you should give serious consideration to what you want to give God, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver. And you can be sure that God is able to bless you with all his grace, so that in all things, at all times, you will always have all you need, and you'll ALSO OVERFLOW so you can give to every good work."  
2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

*"Bring your full tithe to My storehouse, so that there will be food in My House. Test Me now in this," says the Lord, "and see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing UNTIL IT OVERFLOWS."  
Malachi 3:10 (NASB)*

Jesus: *"If you give, you will receive back. Your gift will be returned to you in full measure, packed down and shaken to make room for more, and RUNNING OVER. Whatever measure you use in giving—large or small—it will be used to measure whatever is given back to you." Luke 6:38 (NLT)*

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

Living in the Goodness of God – Rick Warren  
Parts 1-3

*“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 (KJV)*

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

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

*“Surely goodness . . . will follow me all the days of my life.”*

*“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.”*

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

*“I will . . . not forget the glorious things God 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: 2-13 (TLB)*

*“We can come before God's throne where . . . 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.”*

*“God wanted to reveal his abundant glory, which was poured out on us who are the objects of his mercy, and whom he has prepared in advance to receive his glory!” Romans 9:23*

#### 1.

#### BECAUSE GOD IS SO GOOD TO ME

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

*“We have been given possession of an unshakable kingdom. Let us therefore BE GRATEFUL and use our gratitude to worship God in the way that pleases him with reverence and awe.” Hebrews 12:28*

Jesus: *“You have been treated generously, so live generously. Give as freely as you have received.” Matthew 10:8 (The Message/NLT)*

*“Good will come to him who is GENEROUS. Such people lend freely, and conduct their affairs honestly. They will never be shaken . . . They don't fear bad news because they trust the Lord to care for them. They are CONFIDENT AND FEARLESS in facing their opposition! Because they give generously to those in need, they will have influence and honor.” Psalm 112:5-9*

#### 2.

#### BECAUSE GOD IS SO GRACIOUS WITH ME

*“Be gracious and merciful to everyone, and forgive others, just as God has forgiven you because of Christ.” Ephesians 4:32*

*“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.” 1 John 4:18*

#### 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)*

*“God, in his divine power, has given us everything we need for living a godly life. This power is given to us through knowing Jesus. And He has called us to share in his own goodness and glory!” 2 Peter 1:3*

### Next Steps

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## HEAVEN: GOD'S ETERNAL GOODNESS TO YOU

Living in the Goodness of God – Rick Warren  
Parts 1-3

*"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*

*"It is through grace that we have been saved. And God has given us a PLACE WITH CHRIST IN HEAVEN to show for all ages to come GOD'S GOODNESS TO US because of Christ." Ephesians 2:5-7*

### WHAT IS HEAVEN?

- **IT'S A \_\_\_\_\_ NOT A STATE OF BEING**  
John 14:2-3
- **IT'S A \_\_\_\_\_ THAT'LL LAST FOREVER**  
2 Corinthians 5:1
- **IT'S A \_\_\_\_\_ FOR ONLY GOD'S FAMILY**  
Revelation 21:27

### HOW IS HEAVEN DIFFERENT?

*"No eye has ever seen, no ear has ever heard, and no mind has ever even imagined what God has prepared for those who love him!" 1 Corinthians 2:9*

### 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 (The Message)*
- 2. WE WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_**  
*"Know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward for serving Christ." Colossians 3:24*

Hebrews 10:35, 1 Peter 1:4, John 12:26

- 3. WE WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_**  
*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You've been faithful with a few things; I will now put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:21*

2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 22:3-5

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