

Goodness and Love Always

Psalm 23:6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Goodness and love frequently refer to covenant benefits. In the Hebrew for this phrase it reveals a befriending. It is an appeal to God's "(unfailing) love, kindness, and mercy."

The critical word in David's concluding observation is "loyal love" which is often translated "mercy" of "loving-kindness." It is a way of emphasizing the value of the loyal love and focusing all attention on it. The two words work well together. "Goodness" or "good" refers to that which promotes, protects, produces, and enhances life. And "loyal love" is the well-known covenant word that describes God's faithful love to keep his covenant promises.

Even that which at first sight appears to be evil turns out to be a blessing. (The Hebrew "ak" may be taken as "surely, certainly." "Surely I have received from the Lord nothing but good all the days of my life!")

Goodness to supply every want. Mercy to forgive every sin. Goodness to provide. Mercy to pardon. Our moods may shift, but God's doesn't. Our minds may change, but God's doesn't. Our devotion may falter, but God's never does. Even if we are faithless, He is faithful, for he cannot betray Himself (2 Tim. 2:13). (Safe in the Shepherd's Arms - Max Lucado)

The word "follow" means to pursue. God does not give His blessings once; His goodness and mercy are continually given to His children. (TLSB)

It is God who will pursue him and extend his loyal love to him every step. He will not let David out of His faithful loving care. No matter where he went, or why, David knew that God would follow him with his love. He had been pursued often in his life; but no man chased him as persistently and effectively as the Lord.

When our verse says "dwell in the house of the Lord" it is heaven, and the feasting and celebrating represent the joys of eternal life. In heaven we will feast in safety forever because we will be secure from Satan and all our enemies. No one will be able to deprive us of the joys of eternal life, which can never be interrupted or lost. We will dwell "in His house" – very close to Him – as His children and heirs throughout this life and on into the next.

Prayer: Good Shepherd, open our eyes to see Your blessing. Open our ears to hear Your voice. Open our hearts that we may love You. Amen. (TLSB)