



75th Anniversary Weekly Devotionals

Week 6 (Oct 23 – 29)

Each week, we will provide 5 days of Bible reading to guide you as you pray and meditate on the Bible passages and topics we're studying together as a church family. You can use the S.O.A.P. method (S.O.A.P. journals available at the Info Center) or any method you choose.

God Is So Good

A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us... We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God." We talked Sunday about how all our struggles in life are based on distorted and inaccurate ideas about God. Take time this week to meditate on God's goodness. Grow in your trust in God's goodness and let that confidence in God change your life.

DAY ONE: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11, ESV)

- Years ago Pastor Mike challenged us to memorize this verse. Today, let's make that happen. Suggestion: type it into your word processor. Replace a word with a blank each time you read it through. Don't forget the address. After 27 times through, you should get 'er done. (If you've done the above already, design a tattoo based on the wall art. Feel free to email your design to Pastor Mike.) Thank God for his goodness.

DAY TWO: "Don't ever limit your understanding of the fatherhood of God to the experience of your own father—no matter how good he was or how bad he was. Rather, take heart that God has none of the sins of your father—none." (John Piper)

- Meditate on the ways your earthly father has influenced your understanding of your heavenly Father.

- Read Exodus 33:18-19; 34:5-7. If the "yet" of 34:6 is a fulcrum in these verses, which side tends to weigh heavier in your perceptions of God the Father as a daily experience?

- Read Ezekiel 33:11. Meditate on how God's justice is a good that we can love in our own lives and in the lives of others.

DAY THREE: Read Psalm 145. Make a list (or number them in your Bible) of all the good things that the psalmist catalogues.

- Write out a sentence of praise for each one. Congrats, you've written a Psalm!

DAY FOUR: Read James 1:17-18. Theologians speak of "Common Grace" as all the undeserved blessings man receives from the hand of God: rain, sun, prosperity, health, happiness, natural capacities and gifts, sin being restrained from complete dominion, etc. "Special" or "Saving Grace" is the work of the Holy Spirit in calling, regenerating, justifying, and sanctifying individual sinners.

- Spend time today thinking of all the ways you experience common grace (e.g. innovation, medicine, craftsmanship, etc.)

DAY FIVE: Read Psalm 34. Affliction (34:2) and trouble (34:17) are real and many (34:19). We don't need to live in denial or a false optimism. Jesus said it himself (see John 16:33).

- Reread Psalm 34, praising God for each and every way God is with us in our troubles.