

God's Promises # 3
God Is Always Good- I Will Not Despair
Pastor Rick Edwards

"We know that God causes all things to work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

LP God's goodness is the ultimate rescue net under all of life's experiences.
"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living" Psalm 27:13

LP Despair is defined as "destitute of positive expectations."

Accelerants for despair: Surprise Severity Settledness

God Is Always Good- I Will Not Despair

- **God's goodness is something He wants us to experience**
"taste and see that the LORD is good." Psalm 34:8
- **God's goodness is the eventual conclusion of every generation of His children**
"For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100:5
- **God's goodness is all over what He does**
"The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made." Psalm 145:9
- **God's goodness may not be immediately obvious**
"The LORD is good to those who wait for him." Lamentations 3:25
- **God's goodness is a refuge**
"The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him." Nahum 1:7.

LP A Stronghold is what God's goodness looks like to the enemy on the outside; A **Refuge** is what God's goodness looks like to us on the inside.

We grow in our awareness of God's goodness!!!

God has a plan for your life. He's got some objectives He's working out.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

- **"welfare." For our eternal well being!!!**
- **"Not for evil."** God's plans take us away from evil; Our plans take us smack into the middle of it! Our plans will never work out for good; God's plans always work out for good!
- **"To give you a future"** His purposes will be accomplished.

- **"Hope"** What kind of future is in God's plan? A good one to which you can look forward. That's why you can hope.

LP The biblical definition of "hope" is a "confident expectation of something better tomorrow." God's plan produces hope in us.

"We know that God causes all things to work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

1. *"We **know** that God causes all things to work together for good."*
2. *"We know that God **causes**"*
3. *"We know that God causes **all things** to work together for good."*
4. *"God causes all things to **work together for good**"*
5. *"those who **love God**"*

God's promises are an assurance God gives His people so they can walk by faith while they wait for Him to work.

Rehearse in your mind the situations in your life right now that are "in process." They may be difficult, or unknown, or not going as you would dream they would. They're the big things, the situations that keep you up at night. With those circumstances in mind, say by faith:

Even though today _____ (name the situation), I will not despair because I believe God is good and that He will work all things together for my good and His glory.

God's promises are activated by faith

God's promises are "exceedingly great and precious" (2 Peter 1:4).

- Claim God's promises that are specifically for you
- Treasure them in your heart
- Apply them to your life
- Share them with others

A prayer of faith

Father, I feel faith rising in me as I believe Your Word. Your Word is true. By Your grace, I will not despair. I believe that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. I believe that You have plans for me for wholeness and not for evil. I believe that You have a future and a hope for me. I believe that You are working all things together for the good of those who love You. Lord, Your promises are exceedingly great and precious to me. I say by faith that You are good. In Jesus' name, Amen.