

Now and After: Presence of God

Psalm 23:6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and afterwards I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

Consider the NOW

The covenant phrase

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life

God's Active Pursuit ("Follow"): The Hebrew word *radap* means to chase, hunt down, or pursue, rather than just passively following. God's love and blessings are proactive agents in our lives.

God's Goodness

Tov

v): Represents God's provisions, blessings, and useful things provided to the believer.

God's Mercy

Chesed

Refers to God's steadfast, loyal, or unflinching love and covenant faithfulness. It is the compassion that forgives and restores.

God's Constant Presence ("All the Days"): This promise holds true for every day, from life's peaceful moments to the darkest valleys.

How Do We Respond?

Lamentations 3:21-23.

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

We Walk Through Life Without Fear.

Joshua 1:9

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Not because of who we are but because of who God is.

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23, Keller emphasizes,

“His goodness and mercy and compassion to me *are* new every day. And my assurance is lodged in these aspects of His character.”

When we trust the character of God, His goodness and mercy, the tension of life is removed and replaced with excitement for tomorrow.

Philippians 3:13-14,

“But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Even the tension in tomorrow is removed.

Jesus said, do not worry about tomorrow.

Thoughts of tomorrow leads us to the afterward,

And afterward I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Covenant meal ill.

Luke 22:15-18

15 And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. **18** For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.