



Bold Confidence in God's Goodness and Mercy

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:6 NKJV

Number 27 in the series "The Lord is My Shepherd"

Whenever I read this portion of scripture, I am struck by the bold confidence of the words: *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."* King David wrote this psalm. Life had not always been easy for him. Disliked, mocked, and rejected by his brothers, David knew pain. As a shepherd for years, David's life was often in danger from wild animals that wanted to kill and devour the sheep. As a soldier and a leader in King Saul's army, David's life was in danger many times. David had no set place to live for years as King Saul in fits of jealous rage hounded him from place to place trying to kill him.

Throughout the book of Psalms as well as many other portions of scripture, David spoke of his many enemies who were trying to destroy him. It was in the midst of these tests, trials, sorrow, and persecution that David's trust and confidence in God's goodness and mercy was established. Psalm 6:6-10 (NIV) reads, *"I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping. The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer. All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace."*

Many times in painful situations, I have felt that those words were the perfect expression from my heart—going through a church split, when my unsaved nephew committed suicide, when my four-year-old niece was brutally murdered. Psalm 94:17-

19 (NIV) reads, *"Unless the LORD had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death. When I said, 'My foot is slipping,' your love, O LORD, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul."*

This portion of scripture became very personal to me several years ago after a serious accident in which I could have died or had lasting repercussions. There is no doubt that the Lord saved my life, and I daily experienced His goodness and mercy as I went through several years of doctors, surgery, and therapy. God's goodness and mercy led me to good doctors, a good surgeon, and a good physical therapist. At the same time, I also had thyroid problems, hypoglycemia, chronic fatigue syndrome, and a lot of food allergies. God gave me many opportunities to speak of His goodness and mercy to the doctors, nurses, and patients. I was asked to speak at churches and women's retreats, and many lives were touched by the power of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Throughout that time I continued to speak in the U.S. and internationally. Because of the faithful prayers of believers, I did not stop ministering. Like King David, I have bold confidence in God's goodness and mercy and God's amazing grace. Beloved, stay close to Jesus in your times of tests and trials.

— *Janice McBride*

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