

Who Are You Praying To?

INTRODUCTION

A. GOODNESS

1. The goodness of God is the moral quality of God which prompts us to call Him good, perfect, generous, merciful, gracious, compassionate, ...
2. Jesus: Matthew 19:17 and Mark 10:18
3. Exodus 33:18-22; 34:1-7
4. The goodness of God: mercy, compassion, grace, patience [= slow to anger], abounding in love [lovingkindness], abounding in faithfulness [truth], forgiving, just [punishes].
5. The goodness of God is often the starting point of our prayers. (Nahum 1:7; Ps. 119:65-72).

B. FAITHFULNESS

1. The faithfulness of God means that He never forgets, fails, falters, or forfeits His word. He is reliable, dependable, and trustworthy.
2. God does not give up on you, Exodus 34:6
3. You can worship God because He is faithful, Psalm 89
 - a. 1-33, God is faithful in His very being, His nature.
 - b. 34-37, God is faithful to keep His promises.
 - c. 38-52, God is faithful to punish sin.
 - d. 52, worship God!
4. God's faithfulness sustains us in hard times.
 - a. When everything is wrong, Lamentations 3:1-20
 - b. Remember this and have hope, Lamentations 3:21
 - c. God is faithful, Lamentations 3:22-26
 - d. If you are suffering because you are obeying God, 1 Peter 4:19
 - e. If you are suffering because of struggle with the evil one, 2 Thessalonians 3:3
 - f. If you are struggling with temptation, 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - g. If you have not been faithful, 2 Timothy 2:13
 - h. If you can't find forgiveness for sin, 1 John 1:9

C. GRACIOUSNESS

1. Undeserved, free, and unlimited favor. "Grace is that in God which brings into favor one justly in disfavor."
(Tozer)
Justice is when we get what we deserve
Mercy is when we do not get what we deserve.
Grace is when we get what we do not deserve.
2. God's graciousness is eternal, as He is (2 Tim. 1:9); sovereign (Rm. 5:21, Heb. 4:16); and free to its recipient as it is neither earned nor repaid (Rm. 3:24, 11:6).
3. Pray to the gracious God for
 - a. Your salvation, Ephesians 2:8-9
"by grace, through faith"
 - b. Grace to be free from the control of sin (Rm. 6:4)
 - c. Grace to live a godly life (Titus 2:11-14)
 - d. Grace to become a spiritual person (Gal. 5:22-23)
 - e. Grace to endure suffering (1 Peter 5:10)
 - f. Grace to do good works (Eph. 2:10)
 - g. Grace to give of your finances, (2 Cor. 8:1, 6, 7)

D. WRATH

1. Definition
 - a. God's wrath is holiness stirred into action, intense anger against sin, a resolute action to punish sin.
2. God's wrath is just (Judicial), Psalm 7:6-11
3. God's wrath is coming, 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10
4. God's wrath is His response to the problem of evil, Romans 1:18; 2:5, 8; 9:22

E. PATIENCE

1. Divine patience is "that power of control which God exercises over Himself, causing Him to bear with the wicked and forbear so long in punishing sin." (Pink)
2. Protection from His wrath (for a time and purpose), Nahum 1:2-8
3. Salvation and holiness, 2 Pt. 3:8-15