

## CCC GOD'S PRESCRIPTION TO FEARING P7A

### THE FUTURE Psalm 23:6

Today we're going to continue in our series called God's Pharmacy. Today we're going to look at God's prescription to Fearing the Future. See a lot of people spend their lives worrying about tomorrow. They never enjoy today because they're worrying about tomorrow. Why? Because we don't know what's going to happen tomorrow. Yet David, as he concludes this Psalm, is not worried. Listen to what he says, Listen to what God's word, the bible says, Psalm 23:6 *"Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* This scripture we can claim for our lives. No anxiety, no fear of the future, no worry about tomorrow. We can be confident -- *"surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life."* Where do you get that kind of

confidence? If you're a believer, if you have put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, if it is in Him that you live today for; God's word, the bible says there are three reasons why you don't need to fear the future:

- 1. Because God is watching over you.**
- 2. Because God's grace is working in you.**
- 3. Because heaven is waiting for you.**

*"Surely goodness will follow me all the days of my life."*

Because God is good and from that day that you surrender your life to Him and asked Him to be your Lord and Saviour, to be the manager of your life... From that day on, you can expect His protection and provision. I can expect that no matter what happens to me, God will bring good out of it somehow. It will always either be for my own good, for the good of other people, or for the good of His kingdom to come. God is a good God. Psalm 145 *"The*

*Lord watches over all who love him...*" God cares about the details of your life. God will provide for you in the future. We don't know what the future holds but we do know Who holds it. We know God is in control and God loves you and wants to help you. He says, I will be like a Father and will watch over you. *"Surely goodness will follow..."* What does that mean? *"Surely goodness will follow..."* I mean obviously David had disappointments in life. We live in a imperfect world with imperfect people... not everything good happened to him. He's not saying, surely, that only good things are going to happen to me. That's not true. Bad things happen to good people. He's not saying only good things are going to happen. He's saying only goodness will follow. He telling us that; Good things will always come out of whatever happens even the bad, even the evil, even the difficult things. God insures you and I that good will

come out of all things -- it will follow whatever happens to you. The great promise that God has given to believers: Romans 8:28, *"We know that all that happens to us is working for our good! IF we love God and are fitting into his plans."* This is not a promise for everybody. All things do not work together for good for everybody in this world. Things don't work together for bad for people who are not trying to go the way God wants them to go, things don't work together for those who are not following his path. But if you're a believer, if the banner you walk under today is the Banner of Jesus Christ, the Bible says all things are working together for good -- not all things are good -- but working together for good. That's what it means "goodness will follow me". There is no difficulty, dilemma, defeat, disaster in the life of a Christian that ultimately God won't bring good out of. Eventually, He'll bring good out of it.

Somehow. Often it's difficult to see God's goodness when you're going through a tragedy. There are times when you don't feel like God is good. You don't feel His mercy.

Sometimes you feel like God's goodness is hidden. Even Jesus, on the cross, said, "My God, my God, Why?" We go through those experiences sometimes in life -- Why? And we don't see goodness in the situation. It's only later, looking back, that we see God's goodness and how He was working for good. This does not mean only good things will happen to you, because bad things will happen to you, but God will bring good out of them. Paul was put falsely in prison in Rome. Was that good? No. He was kept as a prisoner in Rome. While he was there, he wrote some books that we now call the New Testament. Goodness followed after his imprisonment. Today we're benefiting from Paul's problem, from Paul's pain, his difficulties.

Goodness follows. God says, I will watch over you. How does God watch over believers? Ps. 91, "*God orders his angels to protect you wherever you go.*" God uses angels to watch over you. Did you know Angels are real? They are invisible helpers from God. The Bible says one of the reasons God has created them is to watch over and protect believers. You don't talk to them or see them, but they are there working on your behalf all the time. The book "Angels Among Us" is a book with passages from the Bible on what God says about angels. It's written by Ron Rhoades, if you would like some good biblical information about Angels get the book. The Bible does talk a lot about angels, who they are and what they do. I'd like to talk a little about the ministry of angels in guarding Christians. But first I want to lay a foundation with three brief points: **First, human beings do not become angels at death.**

That is something you see in Hollywood motion pictures but you won't find it in the Bible. Ps. 8:5. **Secondly, angels are spirit beings.** They don't have physical bodies.

Because they are spirits, they are invisible and most of the time we do not perceive their activities among us. On a practical level, that means angels are protecting you when you're not even aware of it. **Thirdly, we don't just have one angel watching over us we have many angels watching over us.** Ps. 91:11 "*God commands His angels...*" plural.

What are some of the ways angels protect us today? How do angels guard us? **First**, angels guard us against harm and injury. We see this illustrated in Daniel 6. Daniel was in the lions' den and the lions were very hungry. But God sent His angels and they kept those lions away from Daniel. The angels protected Daniel from harm. Scriptures

say angels have the same ministry in your life. **Secondly**, angels guard us by restraining evil. We see this illustrated in 2 Kings 6. We find Elijah and his servant surrounded by a hostile army that is getting ready to move in on them. Elijah is not worried a bit. He knows that God's angels are there but the servant is petrified. I picture the servant as a Don Knotts' type. Elijah prays to God, "Lord, open his eyes that he can see." At that moment this servant saw angels surround them, hundreds of them. No longer was he worried. He came to understand the truth of Ps. 91 "*God commands His angels to guard over you in all your ways.*" **Number three**, angels guard us in the midst of dangerous circumstances. This is illustrated in Acts 27, where Paul is on a ship with a bunch of other men. This ship encounters a tremendous hurricane. From all outward appearances it looks as if the ship is going to sink and everybody is going

to die. An angel appears to Paul and says, "Don't worry. You're not going to die and nobody on this ship is going to die. You're going to be safe." Angels can protect us in dangerous circumstances. **Finally**, angels guard us against despair, discouragement. This can be well illustrated from our own church. There was a lady who came in to see me once who was going to have a Down Syndrome baby. I told her that God was going to bless her with this Down Syndrome baby and that the church would be there to help her through this situation. After she left, a couple days later I wrote a note to her and reaffirmed that God was going to bless her with this Down Syndrome baby and take care of her. The note got delivered to the wrong address. The lady that received the postcard decided to hand deliver it to the correct address. The lady with the postcard said, "Your pastor wrote you a postcard about your Down Syndrome

baby. I want you to know that I have a Down Syndrome baby too and I want to help you through this if you'll let me." I believe that an angel re-routed the mail. I think angels can do that. We can also look at Biblical examples where angels did specific things to bring encouragement to people. There are all kinds of other ways that angels bring encouragement to us. But also remember just because we have a guardian angel doesn't mean that we're exempt from bad things happening to us. Sometimes bad things do happen. David had angels guarding him and bad things happened to him. The apostle Paul had angels guarding him, but bad things happened to him. One thing you can count on: God will always be with you through adversity. He doesn't exempt you from adversity but walks with you through the adversity. God is all about bring good out of evil. That's exciting