

THE GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL GOD

GOD IS GENEROUS

Chapter 4

Hope you find the time this week to read the chapter. The primary focus of the chapter is that we do not earn God's love, favor, forgiveness, or acceptance. God is generous and gives them to us freely.

The false narrative explored is "Love and forgiveness are commodities that are exchanged for performance and what God most wants is for us not to sin and instead do good" (page 77).

The true narrative explored is that the overarching story of the Bible reveals a God of grace whose love is freely given and what He most wants is for us to know Him and love Him. As we experience His goodness, good works naturally flow from our lives.

The author points out, "To say that sin has consequences is different from saying that because of our sin God entirely rejects us" (page 78).

Think about how you would put into your own words this idea that sin has consequences, but our sin does not lead God to reject us?

A.W. Tozer, the great American pastor and devotional writer (1897-1963) wrote (paraphrased) the most important thing about a person is what they think about God. Spiritual formation begins with what we believe about God. As we replace false ideas and half-truths with the truth of who God really is, our hearts and minds are transformed, and our lives begin to align more closely with His.

Soul Training

Psalms 23 is a true narrative about the Kingdom of God and His generosity. Consider opening your eyes to this Psalm at the beginning of the day and closing your eyes to the Psalm at the end of the day.

Remember that God is delighted in us regardless of our performance. He initiated love toward us. 1 John 4:10 "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

He has already shown us how much He loves us through Jesus.

