

# God's Been Good To Me

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Psalm 37:23-25 (text v. 25)

Psalm 37 is one of my favorite Psalms. I will be preaching again from this wonderful Psalm in the near future. Today I want to focus on verse 25.

I love the song that The Dartts sing, *"God's Been Good To Me."* It is my favorite song that Tracy wrote. I believe David felt the same way when he wrote verse 25.

David is now an old man (v. 25). He has experienced many **different things**—As a shepherd boy... musician... fugitive in the wilderness... warrior... King... husband (of several wives)... parent of wayward children. **He experienced** numerous attempts on his life... betrayal... rebellion... failures... friendship... love... joy.

In other words, he'd been around the block a few times—He knew what life was all about. Verse 25 is **David's testimony** as he reflects back on his life—*"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."* God's been good to me!

I want to use David's testimony as a basis for my testimony this morning.

## I. **God's goodness in my PAST** (*"I have been young..."*).

➡ **The SPRINGTIME of life.** THREE PERIODS...

- A. B.C. (before Christ) days—As I look back on the years of my youth in the mid-1960's, I am **thankful for two things**: (1) I survived, and (2) you didn't know me back then!
  1. Someone said, "Youth is such a wonderful thing. It's a shame to waste it on young people." It grieves me to see some young people waste their lives on living for the world.
  2. God was **good to me even before I got saved**. When I think of the stuff I put in my body... the way I lived... and the people I hung out with—I'm thankful God kept me alive long enough to get saved.
- B. A.C. (after Christ) days—I was saved when I was 20 years old—A young man.

1. God called me into the ministry and I graduated from Bible college in 1974. I was 27 years old when our family left Michigan to come to Redmond, Washington and start the Liberty Baptist Church.
2. In 1978 God lead me to Vermont to begin the Barton Baptist Church. In five years God helped us lead many Vermonters to Christ... purchase four acres of land... build a church building, and start a Christian Day School.
3. In 1983 God called me back to Washington to be Dr. Ken Blue's Assistant Pastor.

C. BBC years (1986 - present)

1. When God called me to be your pastor 26 years ago, I was 38 years old—Still a relatively young man. There were only a handful of people still keeping the fires burning at BBC—Among them were the Turks and the Jensens.
2. Working together God allowed us to rebuild the congregation... purchase our property here on Bethel Road... Build these three buildings... double the number of missionaries we support, and see new ministries started and expand.
3. When I look where we were 26 years ago—meeting in a 100 year old building on Dekalb Street—and see how far God has brought us today, I have to say “God’s been good to BBC!”

**II. God’s goodness in my PRESENT (“...and now am old...”).**

➡ **The SUNSET years.**

- A. I am 64 years old. I qualify for the “senior discount!” But I don’t “feel” like I’m a senior citizen. I can remember when I thought 40 was old. Now I have three daughters that are over 40 and one not too far behind.
- I remember when I never took ANY pills! Now I take over a half dozen pills every morning.
  - I take a pill for food to go down right—Then, take another pill for it to come out right!

➡ Maybe you can probably relate to this poem by Dr. Ken Blue:

I take little pills to help me sleep at the night,  
I take another to keep my cholesterol right.

Then there's one for respiratory congestion,  
Another one to curb my acid indigestion.

There is a sinus spray I spray up my nose,  
There is a foot spray called Doctor Scholls®.

An aspirin and blood thinner help my blood flow,  
And Milk of Magnesia® to make it easy when I go.

I have a calorie app to count all I intake,  
Each night a pill for an enlarged prostate.

My bones ache and creak, so I apply Icy Hot®  
Come to think of it—I think I need a flu shot.

You say I should be thankful, and you're right, I guess,  
'Cause, if the Lord didn't provide, I'd really be a mess.

B. It's all good! In each stage of life there are qualities that add to the quality of life.

➡ Which is more beautiful—A gorgeous sunrise in the east or a spectacular sunset in the west?

- Youth has it's great aspirations—Age has it's appreciations.
- Youth has it's physical strength—Age has it's spiritual strength.
- Youth has it's energy—Age has it's experience.
- Youth has it's vigor — Age has it's vigilance.

1. I can truly say I'm enjoying life and serving God today just as much as when I was first saved 45 years ago when I was 20.
2. I may look like an old man, but inside this 64 year old body is a fire burning hotter now than ever before!
  - Moses was 80 years old when God called him to lead Israel.
  - Caleb was 85, he claimed his mountain and took the stronghold of the giants (Josh. 14:10-15).

- Anna, the prophetess, was still serving God at the temple when she was approximately 107 years old (Luke 2:36-38).
  - Colonel Sanders began Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) at the age of 65.
  - John Wesley traveled 160 miles in 48 hours on horseback when he was 74 years old. At 84 he trekked 240 in 80 hours miles on horseback. When he was 87 he wrote: “I am now an old man. My eyes are dim. My right hand shakes very much. But, blessed be God, I do not slack my labor. I can still preach and write.”
3. I’m not ready to be “turned out to pasture.” There is still some fight left in this old geezer. I believe I still have something I can offer in serving God. I don’t believe my race is over yet. There is still more God wants me to do here at BBC.
- ➡Psalm 71:9, 18—*“Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth... Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.”*

### III. **God’s goodness in my PROVISION** (“...yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”)

#### ➡The **SURVEY** from life.

- A. **Age changes us**, but one thing that never changes: **God never changes!** He’s the same yesterday, today and forever! And because He never changes, His care for you doesn’t change! His name is still **“Jehovah-ji-reh”**—He is a God that will Provide!
- B. If look back over your life, you have to recognize that “Down through the years, the Lord has been good to you!”

➡The late Rev. James Cleveland wrote a song entitled, **“I’m Not Tired Yet!”** I love that song. Been listening to it a lot lately.

*Been working for Jesus a long time, (I’m not tired yet)*  
*Been running for Jesus a long time (I’m not tired yet)*  
*Been running by day and praying by night (I’m not tired yet)*  
*I’ve gotta keep goin’—it’s a mighty hard fight (I’m not tired yet)*

*Sometimes my burdens press me down (I'm not tired yet)*  
*So I press on up to higher ground (I'm not tired yet)*  
*Sometimes I can hardly see my way (I'm not tired yet)*  
*So I get on my knees and I start to pray (I'm not tired yet)*  
*I'm runnin' by grace (No, I'm not tired yet).*  
*I'm runnin' in mercy (No, I'm not tired yet).*  
*His grace is sufficient (No, I'm not tired yet).*  
*His mercy endures — No. I'm not tired yet!*

When Rev. Cleveland started his song in church, a little old Black lady about 82 years old got up to testify.

She raised her hand and said, "I've been running for Jesus for some fifty some-odd years. Ah don't feel no ways tired. I've come too far from where I started from. Nobody told me that the road would be easy. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE HE BROUGHT ME THIS FAR TO FORSAKE ME NOW."

Being an older Black woman, I am sure she had seen a lot of hard times along the way... but she knew that through it all, the Lord was not going to leave her.

➡ Hebrews 13:5— *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

- C. Speaking for myself, I can say God has always been good to me. He has never forsaken me and always provided all my needs. I've never had to beg for bread although there were times when my family only had a box of Saltine crackers and a jar of peanut butter. But God has always taken care of us.
1. Down through the years the Lord has transformed my sorrow into joy... He's been my bridge over troubled waters... He's been my burden bearer and a heavy load carrier. Praise God! He's been good to me.
  2. I cannot promise you that you will always have everything you want. But I can say from experience that God will take care of all your needs when you live for Him!

**SUMMATION:** Everyone present here this morning is at one of these stages in of life— You are young... old... or somewhere in between.

But no matter what stage of life you are in, the most important thing is **what are you doing with your life?** Are you spending it on the fleeting things of the world, or that which endures unto eternal life?

- Young people, invest your life in something that will out last you. When you are gone, will there be something you've left behind that will continue to pay dividends for God's glory?
- Old timers, it's not too late to get into the game. I know of some men who went to the mission field after they turned 60.
- Retirement is a great thing as long as you don't "flat-tire." Use your