A. W. Tozer—"What comes to your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you, because it affects everything else in your life."

Psalm 100:5 "For the Lord is **good**. His unfailing love continues forever, and His faithfulness continues to each generation." (NLT)

Psalm 111:7 "All He does is just and **good**, and all His commandments are trustworthy." (NLT)

Psalm 119:68 "You are **good** and **do only good**; teach me your decrees." (NLT)

HOW GOD'S GOODNESS AFFECTS MY PRAYERS

Because God is always good …

1. God's plans for my life will ALWAYS BE GOOD.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 "10 This is what the Lord says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. 11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are **plans for good** and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. 12 In those days when you pray, I will listen. 13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. 14 I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land." (NLT)

Psalm 31:19 "How great is the goodness you have **stored up** for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world." (NLT)

Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the **good** of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." (NLT)

Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for **good**. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people." (NLT)

Romans 5:3-5 "3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for **we know** that they help develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For **we know** how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love." (NLT)

2. God always gives me what I NEED, not what I DESERVE.

Psalm 103:8-12 "8 The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. 9 He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. 10 He does not punish us for all our sins; He does not deal harshly with us **as we deserve**. 11 For His unfailing love toward those who fear Him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. 12 He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west." (NLT)

1 John 1:9 "But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." (NLT)

Psalm 27:10-13 "10 Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close. 11 Teach me how to live, O Lord. Lead me along the right path, for my enemies are waiting for me. 12 Do not let me fall into their hands. For they accuse me of things I've never done; with every breath they threaten me with violence. 13 Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's **goodness** while I am here in the land of the living." (NLT)

Hebrews 4:14-16 "14 So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. 15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin. 16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." (NLT)

3. God puts MY good above HIS own good.

John 10:14-15 "14 I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep." (NLT)

John 15:13 "There is no great love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." (NLT)

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, He poured God's goodness into us." (LB)

Romans 4:25 "He died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God, filling us with God's goodness." (LB)

Romans 8:32 "Since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else?" (NLT)

4. He DOES NOT SAY YES to every request.

   1) When the request is not right, God says NO.

   2) When the timing is not right, God says SLOW.

   3) When your not spiritually ready, God says GROW.

   4) When the request is right, God says GO.

Matthew 20:22 "But Jesus answered by saying to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?" (NLT)

Isaiah 55:8-9 "[8] My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. [9] For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." (NLT)

BOTTOM LINE

Psalm 23:6 "Surely **goodness** and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever." (NLT)

Psalm 34:4-10 "[4] I prayed to the Lord, and He answered me. He freed me from all my fears. [5] Those who look to Him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. [6] In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; He saved me from all my troubles. [7] For the angel of the Lord is a guard; He surrounds and defends all who fear Him. [8] **Taste and see that the Lord is good.** Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in Him! [9] Fear the Lord, you His godly people, for those who fear Him will have all they need. [10]

Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing." (NLT)