

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)

The peace of our souls does not rise and fall with unpredictable people or situations. Our feelings will shift, of course. People do affect us. But the peace of our souls is tethered to all that God is. And though we can't predict His specific plans, the fact that God will work everything together for good is a completely predictable promise. God will lead us, comfort us, guide us, walk with us, prepare the best for us, and continue filling us with such lavishness that we're not just full but overflowing.

All of this is certain. No more need for hesitancy. But here's the one thing we must watch out for: If we become enamored with something in this world we think offers better fullness than God, we will make room for it. We leak out His fullness to make room for something else we want to chase.

It will happen if you chase a guy you think will make you more full.

It will happen if you chase an opportunity you think will make you more full.

It will happen if you chase some possession you think will make you more full.

It will happen if you, like me, chase perfect order from an imperfect world, thinking it will make you more full.

But at some point every one of those things will reveal its absolute inability to keep us full. And then, since we denied God's power to lead us, we forget His power to hold us. In an effort not to free-fall, we chase something or someone else we think will ease our emptiness.

David takes a different approach. He reminds himself at the end of this psalm of trust and fulfillment:

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

(Psalm 23:6)

There is a certainty in what David is declaring here. It's not based on a feeling or a good circumstance. It's based on what David knows to be unchanging truth. There aren't many sure things in this world. But God's love and goodness are something we can absolutely count on to be there with us . . . to *follow* us.

That word *follow* in the original Hebrew is *radaph*, meaning "to pursue" or "chase." God's goodness and love will run after us all the days of our lives. How tragic that when we chase something in this world, we're actually running away from the stable trust and secure love our souls long for the most. Our souls were created to be pursued and fulfilled by God's love and goodness. Other chases deplete us and erode our trust.