

Hot Pursuit

You can't run from Him and you can't hide from Him. His eye is ever upon you and He is in hot pursuit of you. Isn't that awesome? He is in endless pursuit of you.

God is saying, "I AM always coming after you."

God uses many things in our lives to speak to us and I just love how He does this!! Most people are familiar with or have heard Psalm 23 read or quoted at one time or another. This psalm is loved by many because the common metaphors express profound faith and truth. Today I want to focus on verse 6 of Psalm 23.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever."

The word "surely" here means with certainty and can be read, "with certainty only goodness and mercy will follow me."

The word "follows" here is a Hebrew word that means:

- To run down
- Chase after
- Hunt in hot pursuit

Goodness and mercy do not just "follow" they pursue you. According to the New Interpreter's Bible, the Hebrew word "follows" is a verb and has the more active sense of pursuing. The verb also means in a continuous state. This means that God's goodness and love continuously pursue the person (the person is you).

The verb definition for pursue is used with an object- (pursued, pursuing), and in this case, you are the object.

- to follow in order to overtake, capture, chase.
- to follow close upon; go with; attend.
- to strive to gain; seek to attain or accomplish (an end, object, purpose, etc.).
- to proceed in accordance with (a plan).
- to carry on or continue with a course of action.

His plan is to overtake you with goodness and mercy. Unfortunately, we have all been hurt by life and at times get stuck in "the valley of the shadow," and at times are unable to find our way out.

This passages totally shows us the heart of God as He actively hunts after us (especially during painful times). He wants His goodness and mercy to overtake us.

I want to share a story with you, and its something that I use to do with my daughter Rachel.

When my daughter was about 2 or 3, we had a special game we'd play. As soon as she would hear a certain tone in my voice, along with the words, "Mommy is soooooo hungry. Mommy is gonna get something to eat and she is gonna eat Rachel up,"

Rachel would immediately stop whatever it was she was doing and begin to squeal, running crazily around the house trying to find a place to hide. She knew what was coming next, and with incredible excitement she would run as fast as her little legs would take her. It was absolutely adorable!

The game was for me to chase her down and eventually overtake her. Once I caught her, I would grab her, lay her down on her back, and start to kiss her profusely or tickle her tummy (it usually depended on her what I would do when I caught her). Either way, she would scream with delight while laughing uncontrollably.

To say that I loved these moments would be an understatement! I loved chasing her and I loved catching her even more. There was such an incredible joy that filled my heart in making my daughter happy and watching her satisfied with the goodness of our relationship.

I get the same image where God is chasing (or hunting) each of us down so He can bless us with all He has for us (Ephesians 3:20). In faith we receive the blessings being offered by the God of love.

Some of us have never known this because we don't know how to receive it. Others have never allowed Him to catch them because they are too busy running from Him, while others are too wrapped up in doing "great works" for Him (that was me).

You are forever being pursued by the goodness and mercy of God. Goodness and mercy are pursuing you, even when you flee. You don't just have to imagine a life where you are no longer being tormented by your fears or disappointments. Goodness and mercy are pursuing you!

Yes, pursuing you even when your apathy, comfort, pride and fear seem to get the best of you. He is actively!!!! He is purposefully!!!! pursuing you. And you know what? He wants you to enjoy the goodness of a relationship with Him always.

Gina Cobb
March 13, 2015