



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**“God is so good. God is so good. God is so good; He’s so good to me.” As you read that, did you sing it? Great, because as I wrote it, I sang it. Do you want to know the truth? If God didn’t do another good thing for me or in me, I would still be able to say that He is good. I look back over my life and I cannot help but be thankful – and in awe that I’m still here – for the way that He has guided me through the good times and bad. I wish I could say that I’ve deserved it, but that would be far from the truth. I haven’t deserved a single blessing, but I am so grateful that He has bless and that He continues to bless me and my family. God is so good.**

**And at the same time, my heart is heavy for so many of our people who are hurting. But I have to**

**be honest with you. The messages God has laid on my heart over the last few weeks have really affected my prayer life. While I thought my focus was on overcoming temptations in our lives, God has been speaking to me about recognizing that all the things that happen to us are for our good and His glory. I've known this most of my life, but over the last three weeks, God has shown me through the temptations of Jesus more about my prayer life and the way that I pray than He has about overcoming temptations. I realized that I was praying in ways that were instructing God on how to handle situations; God reminded me that He doesn't need my advice. Like Jesus' first temptation, we are so often focused on the way we want our needs/wants to be met. Unlike Jesus, we give in. So while my heart still breaks for our hurting people, my prayers have become more in tune with the Father's will. "God, give them strength to win the battle, and Lord, help them to see your plan at work in them to glorify You." I'm still praying for healing and comfort, but I'm not asking God to remove them "from the fire" until**

**the refining process is complete. That's a tough lesson for all of us to learn, but I learned it for myself when our little Lucy was born, when my parents died, and going through this virus. That's why I can continue to sing, "God is so good."**

**I pray that you will have a "refining" day today. May God give you the strength to stand and to shine no matter the test.**

**God loves you, and so do I.**

**Bro. Ben**