

February 1, 2021



Dear Friends at Atwater Baptist,

I hope you are doing well. I have been “staying at home”, although I have gotten my first vaccination so I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I trust you all will be getting your shots soon if not already. I am still missing seeing all of you more regularly.

I recently read a devotion by Max Lucado that brought up some good thoughts.

‘The heart of God is unblemished. “There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle” (James 1:17 the Message). He has no hidden agenda or selfish motive. He loves with a good love and forgives with a good forgiveness.

‘God’s goodness is a major headline in the Bible. I think I know why. If God were only mighty, we would salute him. But since he is merciful and mighty, we can approach him. No wonder the psalmist invited, “Taste and see that the Lord is God” (Psalm 34:8). A glimpse of God’s goodness changes us.

‘God’s unrivaled goodness undergirds everything else we can say about prayer. If he is like us, only slightly stronger, then why pray? If he grows weary, then why pray? If he has limitations, questions, and hesitations, then you might as well pray to the Wizard of Oz.

'However, if God is at once Father and Creator, holy—unlike us— and high above us, then we at any point are only a prayer away from help.' from *God is With You every Day*

This reminded me of another verse that God used in my past to show me more of the duality of God.

*One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God are strong, and that you, O Lord, are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.'* Psalm 62:11-12

I was getting ready to go back to Papua New Guinea again. And as usual, one of the factors was the finances I needed to stay on the mission field. This is always a hard task, both physically and emotionally. So, in my Bible reading I ran across these verses. It struck me that I could rely on God's strength to find the funds I needed but I could also rely on God's unfailing love to keep me strong.

I hope some of these thoughts will help you through this week. Stay strong and rely on God.

In God's strength and love,

*Eileen Gasaway*