



They're the best of the best. You can bet they won't allow any devious elements in to see the President. They'll protect him at all costs and keep out every ominous threat that tries to force or finagle their way to harm the Commander and Chief. And yet it could be argued they're not foolproof.

F. But our good and sovereign God is foolproof. When it comes to our lives, we being His children, nothing gets allowed in that He doesn't allow in. Neither Satan nor his minions nor the most clever of humans have ever snuck anything past God. He neither sleeps nor slumbers. He's never been outsmarted or outwitted or bamboozled with regards to you and your life. Therefore, if something is allowed in, *WHO* has allowed it in? But remember, God is good, even all the time.

G. **Romans 8:28** (AMP) once more, this time from the Amplified: *28 And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose. (If you are His and have been called according to His purpose, and you understand that He has a redemptive plan for your life, then what we've covered so far should humbly reassure you because of His innate goodness. He's absolutely worthy of our trust!*

H. Because our God is good, even a "*Good Good Father*," we can be assured that His love for us is unquenchable. That means His hands that give and His hands that withhold are equally beautiful. His hands that bestow discipline are as loving as His hands that minister comfort. Neither His nearness nor His perceived absences are ever bereft of His goodness. He afflicts the comfortable and comforts the afflicted because He is a good God. His rod and His staff are both applied for our good. He gives and takes away. And He is good, even all the time!

I. Is a father unloving because he won't let his five year old son drive the family car? Is a mother unloving because she won't let her kids play where there's poison ivy? Should these same *deprived* children be allowed to wallow in victimhood? So have you compared your personal life & lot with others to the point you're convinced you've been deprived? Are you up to your neck in the goo of victimhood?! When you have pity parties, do you leave God off your invitation list? Does our good Father make parental mistakes? Is the preacher on TV that keeps saying "*You deserve better!*" really speaking on behalf of our Father?

J. There was a bow & arrow set in my Grandpa's attic, hidden there for me by my Mom. I discovered it while exploring one day. I told my Mom of my glorious discovery. She wasn't happy. But then she told me I couldn't have it until I was ten. *Ten?! Though merely a year or so off, ten seemed like a lifetime away. Could it be that some things we believe we're entitled to now are actually reserved for later? Metaphorically speaking, what if we don't turn *ten* until we're in heaven?*

K. So what if God gives to someone you deem less deserving than you something that seems better than what He's given to you? Has God slighted you? OR What if you do X-Y-Z and get caught but your brother or sister violate the whole alphabet but seem to get away with it. Are you a victim? Do you persevere or pout when you perceive God

being unfair? Is God in complete control or only partially in control? Is your God good? Is He good all the time?

L. Was the God who allowed Job to suffer good? Was He good when He allowed all of the Apostle Paul's horrible hardships, who gave him a thorn in his flesh--a messenger of Satan? Was God good when He His allowed prophets to be stoned or sawn in two? Or when the disciples, save one, were executed for their faith? What about the God who didn't stop the bombings in Shri Lanka last Sunday? What about the God who allows those we love to suffer so? Is your God good? Is He a good good Father? Is He good all the time? A thousand times YES!

M. Here's also what our good good Father allowed: His only Son to be made a Man, to learn obedience from all that He suffered, to be betrayed, arrested, mocked and rejected; to be tortured and nailed to a cross with the filth of our sin laid upon Him. He allowed His Son to bear the wrath and punishment we deserved on a shameful cross. He made the way for us to be imputed with His Son's righteous-record--something we could never earn or ever attain. Who would allow such a thing? A God so loving and incredibly good we can barely comprehend it!

N. **Romans 8:31-39 (ESV)** is the ultimate big-reveal as to God's goodness: **31** *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? (How good is that!) 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the One who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Is that not good?!) 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (Does God ever allow such things as those?) 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, (No--those things won't be allowed to separate us from our Good Good Father!) in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

\* Let's stand and sing our closing prayer this morning: *God You're so good, God You're so good, God You're so good, You're so good to us...*

## **[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)**

### **[Psalm 31:19 \(ESV\)](#)**

**19** Oh, how abundant is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You and worked for those who take refuge in You, in the sight of the children of mankind!

### **[Psalm 34:8 \(ESV\)](#)**

**8** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

**Psalm 86:4-5 (ESV)**

**4** Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. **5** For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You.

**Psalm 100:4-5 (ESV)**

**4** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! **5** For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

**Psalm 106:1 (ESV)**

**1** Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!

**Psalm 107:1-3 (ESV)**

**1** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!  
**2** Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble **3** and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**Psalm 119:68 (ESV)**

**68** You are good and do good; teach me Your statutes.

**Psalm 135:3 (ESV)**

**3** Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to His name, for it is pleasant!

**Psalm 145:7-9 (ESV)**

**7** They shall pour forth the fame of Your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. **8** The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **9** The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

**Romans 8:28 (NASB)**

**28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

**Romans 8:28 (AMP)**

**28** And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.

**Romans 8:31-39 (ESV)**

**31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?  
**32** He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? **33** Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. **34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the One who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is

interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? **36** As it is written, *“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”* **37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Quote by Wayne Grudem**

"What is "good?" "Good" is what God approves. We may ask then, why is what God approves good? We must answer, "Because He approves it." That is to say, there is no higher standard of goodness than God's own character and His approval of whatever is consistent with that character... God's mercy is His goodness toward those in distress, His grace is His goodness toward those who deserve only punishment, and His patience is His goodness toward those who continue to sin over a period of time."

- Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p.p. 197-198.

### **Bonus Stuff**

#### **Exodus 33:17-23 (ESV)**

**17** And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by name." **18** Moses said, "Please show me Your glory." **19** And He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you My name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. **20** But," He said, "you cannot see My face, for man shall not see Me and live." **21** And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me where you shall stand on the rock, **22** and while My glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with My hand until I have passed by. **23** Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

#### **Exodus 34:6-8 (ESV)**

**6** The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, **7** keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

#### **Psalms 136:1-26 (NASB)**

**1** Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting. **2** Give thanks to the God of gods, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. **3** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. **4** To Him who alone does great wonders, for His lovingkindness is everlasting; **5** To Him who made the heavens with skill, for His lovingkindness is everlasting; **6** To Him who spread out the earth above the waters, for His lovingkindness is everlasting; **7** To Him who made the great lights, for

His lovingkindness is everlasting: **8** The sun to rule by day, for His lovingkindness is everlasting, **9** The moon and stars to rule by night, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. **10** To Him who smote the Egyptians in their firstborn, for His lovingkindness is everlasting, **11** and brought Israel out from their midst, for His lovingkindness is everlasting, **12** with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. **13** To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder, for His lovingkindness is everlasting, **14** and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for His lovingkindness is everlasting; **15** But He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. **16** To Him who led His people through the wilderness, for His lovingkindness is everlasting; **17** To Him who smote great kings, for His lovingkindness is everlasting, **18** and slew mighty kings, for His lovingkindness is everlasting: **19** Sihon, king of the Amorites, for His lovingkindness is everlasting, **20** and Og, king of Bashan, for His lovingkindness is everlasting, **21** and gave their land as a heritage, for His lovingkindness is everlasting, **22** even a heritage to Israel His servant, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. **23** Who remembered us in our low estate, for His lovingkindness is everlasting, **24** and has rescued us from our adversaries, for His lovingkindness is everlasting; **25** Who gives food to all flesh, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. **26** Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

#### **1 Chronicles 16:29-34 (ESV)**

**29** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and come before Him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; **30** tremble before Him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. **31** Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" **32** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! **33** Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth. **34** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

#### **Ezra 3:10-11 (NIV)**

**10** When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David king of Israel. **11** With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: "He is good; His love toward Israel endures forever." And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

#### **Nahum 1:7 (ESV)**

**7** The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him.

#### **Jeremiah 29:11 (AMP)**

**11** For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,' says the LORD, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

#### **Quote by Athanasius**

"For God is good - or rather, of all goodness He is the Fountainhead."

### **Quote by Augustine**

"God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them."

### **Quote by John Piper**

"If God has no need, why did He create and redeem? The answer is simple: God created to glorify His goodness. He created a context to display and exercise His moral perfections. We exist for God's glory. We exist because God's goodness is constantly overflowing, and He wants to display it and share it."

- John Piper, *God's Passion for His Glory*.

### **Quote by J.I. Packer**

"Guidance, like all God's acts of blessing under the covenant of grace, is a sovereign act. Not merely does God will to guide us in the sense of showing us His way, that we may tread it; He wills also to guide us in the more fundamental sense of ensuring that, whatever happens, whatever mistakes we may make, we shall come safely home. Slippings and strayings there will be, no doubt, but the everlasting arms are beneath us; we shall be caught, rescued, restored. This is God's promise; this is how good He is."

- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*.

### **Quote by A.W. Pink**

"Gratitude is the return justly required from the objects of His beneficence; yet it is often withheld from our great Benefactor simply because His goodness is so constant and so abundant. It is lightly esteemed because it is exercised toward us in the common course of events. It is not felt because we daily experience it."

- A.W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, p. 60.

### **Quote by Don Fortner**

"As a wise, skilled pharmacist mixes medicine, our heavenly Father wisely mixes exactly the right measure of bitter things and sweet, to do us good. Too much joy would intoxicate us. Too much misery would drive us to despair. Too much sorrow would crush us. Too much suffering would break our spirits. Too much pleasure would ruin us. Too much defeat would discourage us. Too much success would puff us up. Too much failure would keep us from doing anything. Too much criticism would harden us. Too much praise would exalt us. Our great God knows exactly what we need. His Providence is wisely designed and sovereignly sent for our good!"

### **Quote by Jerry Bridges**

"Nothing can be more consoling to the man of God, than the conviction that the Lord who made the world governs the world; and that every event, great and small, prosperous and adverse, is under the absolute disposal of Him who doth all things well, and who regulates all things for the good of His people."

- Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*, p. 214.

### **Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

"All the goodness I have within me is totally from the Lord alone. When I sin, it is from me and is done on my own, but when I act righteously, it is wholly and completely of God."

### **Quote by C.S. Lewis**

"Is he – quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion." "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe! But he's good. He's the king, I tell you."

– C.S. Lewis, from *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

### **Film Clips, Articles, & Edifying Links**

**Life is Hard. God is Good. - John Piper**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJlhYihWlcs>

**"Good Good Father" - Chris Tomlin**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfJrxvVnmkE>

**"God You're So Good" - Kristian Stanfill and Melodie Malone**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAHplkqyL0g>

**"God is Good All the Time" - Randy Overstreet**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZLvS6q6agw>

**"Rescuer (Good News)" - Rend Collective**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAg7rn7fH3Q&list=RDsAg7rn7fH3Q&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAg7rn7fH3Q&list=RDsAg7rn7fH3Q&start_radio=1)

### **Two Minutes to Eternity**

*Why would God allow the miracle of birth to be followed so quickly by the mystery of death?*

By Marshall Shelley

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2011/july-online-only/minuteseternity.html>

He entered the world of light and air at 8:20 p.m. on November 22, 1991. And he departed, the doctor said, at 8:22.

It seemed a very short time. Too short. My wife, Susan, and I never got to see him take his first steps. We barely got to see him take his first breath.

I don't know if he would have enjoyed softball or software, dinosaurs or dragonflies, machines or math. We never got to wrestle, race, or read—would he have enjoyed those things like his older sisters do? What would have made him laugh? Made him scared? Made him angry?

Those questions swarmed around my soul in the days following my son's arrival and all-too-hurried departure. So many things I wondered. But one question loomed larger than all the rest, haunting me for months: Why would God create a child to live two minutes? Many tragic deaths can be blamed on human cruelty or foolishness. A stray bullet punctures a tenement wall and kills an infant. A driver loses control of a car and careens into a group of schoolchildren on the sidewalk. Senseless. Heartbreaking. But at least I know where to direct my anger.

With my son, no direct human responsibility could be charged in his death. It was a "chromosomal abnormality" called Trisomy 13. One of the 23 sets of chromosomes developed a third appendage. Despite genetic tests and the expert opinions of doctors, we discovered no known cause for this condition.

As far as I was concerned, this was a design flaw. And the Designer was directly responsible.

I remember the first time I heard the term "Trisomy 13." It was the same hour I first saw my son—as ghostly black-white-and-gray movements on the sonogram screen. In silence, Susan and I watched the embryonic motions as Dr. Silver manipulated the ultrasound, measuring the cranium and the femur and viewing the internal organs.

"Is everything okay?" I asked.

"Let me complete the examination, and I'll give you a full report," he said. I noted his evasive answer and hoped this was merely his standard procedure.

Moments later, he announced his observations in a matter-of-fact voice: "We have some problems. The fetus has a malformed heart—the aorta is attached incorrectly. There are missing portions of the cerebellum. A club foot. A cleft palate and perhaps a cleft lip. Possibly spina bifida. This is probably a case of Trisomy 13 or Trisomy 18. In either case, it is a condition incompatible with life."

Neither Susan nor I could say anything. So Dr. Silver continued.

"It's likely the fetus will spontaneously miscarry. If the child is born, it will not survive long outside the womb. You need to decide if you want to try to carry this pregnancy to term." We both knew what he was asking. I was speechless. Susan found her voice first. Though shaken by the news, she said softly but clearly, "We believe God is the giver and taker of life. If the only opportunity I have to know this child is in my womb, I don't want to cut that time short. If the only world he is to know is the womb, I want that world to be as safe as I can make it."

We left the medical center that July afternoon stunned and saddened.

"Pregnancy is hard enough when you know you're going to leave the hospital with a baby," Susan said. "I don't know how I can go through the pain of childbirth knowing I won't have a child to hold."

### *Signs of the Pneuma*

Summer turned to fall, and we were praying that our son would be healed. And if a long life were not God's intention for him, we prayed that he could at least experience the breath of life. We longed see that reminder of God's Spirit, the Pneuma, flow through him like a gentle wind.

Even that request seemed in jeopardy as labor began November 22. As the contractions got more severe, signs of fetal distress caused the nurses to ask, "Should we try to deliver the baby alive?"

"Yes, if at all possible, short of surgery," Susan replied.

They kept repositioning Susan and gave her oxygen, and the fetal distress eased.

And then suddenly the baby was out. The doctor cut the cord and gently placed him on Susan's chest. He was a healthy pink, and we saw his chest rise and fall. The breath of life. Thank you, God.

Then, almost immediately, he began to turn blue. We stroked his face and whispered words of welcome, of love, of farewell. And all too soon the doctor said, "He's gone."

Within minutes, our pastor, our parents, and our children came into the room. Together we wept, held one another, and took turns holding our son. My chest ached from heaviness. Death is enormous, immense, unstoppable.

The loss was crushing, but mingled with the tears and the terrible pain was something else. I'm not sure I can describe it.

At the births of my three older daughters, I'd felt "the miracle of birth," that sacred moment when a new life enters the world of light and air. The pneuma, the breath of life, fills the lungs for the first time. Now this moment was doubly intense because the miracle of birth was followed so quickly by the mystery of death. The pneuma was here and now gone.

"It feels like eternity just intersected earth" was all I could say to our pastor. The pain of grief was diminished not at all, but it blended with the weight of overwhelming wonder at the irresistible movement from time to eternity.

"Do you have a name for the baby?" asked one of the nurses.

"Toby," Susan said. "It's short for a biblical name, Tobiah, which means 'God is good.' "

We had long thought about the name for this child. We didn't particularly feel God's goodness at that moment. The name was what we believed, not what we felt. It was what we wanted to feel again someday.

The words of C.S. Lewis, describing the lion Aslan, kept coming to mind: "He's not a tame lion. But he's good." We clung to that image of untamed and fearsome goodness, even as we continued to struggle with the question: Why would God create a child to live two minutes?

### *Everything has an inside*

Shortly before we discovered Toby's condition, I read a book by Christopher de Vinck, *The Power of the Powerless*, in which he describes what he learned from his severely and profoundly retarded brother, Oliver.

I was interested because our third daughter, Mandy, was also severely retarded, unable to respond to her environment. And just three months after Toby's birth and death, Mandy also entered eternity. She was two weeks shy of her second birthday. One of the points de Vinck made about Oliver helped me with the God-directed questions I had after Toby's birth and death.

One of the greatest discoveries that a child or an adult can make, writes de Vinck, is that "everything has an inside. In our house, we split apples to look at the core, we crack walnuts to see the meat inside, we press a toy stethoscope to our chests to listen to the heartbeat."

The point: you can't always guess what's on the inside by looking at the outside.

The Bible says that "Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart." That was true then. It's true now. We're so outer focused. We're taught to judge people by the stylishness of their clothing labels. Political campaigns are crafted by scriptwriters, TV directors, and pollsters. Educational policies are based on appearances of political correctness. We're tempted to believe that image is everything, that outward appearances are most important. We ignore the inside, the heart, the spirit.

Each of my children also has an inside. With my two older girls, I get occasional glimpses of their interior life. Their words and actions give me clues about their inner worlds. With Mandy, the glass was darker. And with Toby, we never had a chance to see inside.

But Mandy and Toby both had insides. Despite the damage to the outer frame, the inside is to be treasured.

### *Our unearthly calling*

Not long after we buried Toby and Mandy, our seven-year-old daughter, Stacey, told us she heard God's voice in the middle of the night telling her that "Mandy and Toby are very busy. They are building our house, and they are guarding His throne."

Not knowing how to respond to a child who had never offered a claim like that before, I found myself reading the Bible with renewed interest in descriptions of heavenly activities. Was this message consistent with Scripture? Our family discussions usually focused on heaven.

We saw that heaven is a place of activity, not just leisure or ease. God is preparing a city for the faithful ([Heb. 11:16](#)), where all will be made perfect and complete ([Heb. 11:40](#)). The Bible contains many descriptions of heavenly worship as active and intense. And since Jesus said that in His Father's house are "many mansions" and He was going to prepare a place for us ([John 14](#)), we could easily envision part of our heavenly activity being to help prepare for those yet to arrive.

I must admit, however, that I was more intrigued by the image of guarding Christ's throne. Was this an honor guard? A ceremonial assemblage of children, whom Christ on earth had invited to be near Him? Or perhaps seats of honor for those Christ had in mind when He said, "The last shall be first"? I can't think of many more "last" than Mandy and Toby.

But what if guarding the throne isn't ceremonial but actual? Daniel 10 describes the angel Michael in conflict with a spiritual foe. [Ephesians 6:12](#) describes a struggle "against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Could it be that among the spiritual warriors in this conflict is one named Toby?

The Book of Revelation records battles involving heavenly armies ([Rev. 19:19](#)). Could it be that along with countless others of us, Toby will serve among the heavenly hosts in that final great war?

All of this, of course, is conjecture. But what is clear is that heaven will be a place of active duty.

And when the ultimate spiritual battle is over, our responsibilities continue.

The apostle John's vision of eternity suggests what's in store for all the saints: "The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads .... And they will reign forever and ever" ([Rev. 22:3-5](#)).

I don't know exactly what our service in that city will involve, nor can I be specific about how we will assist in reigning. But those tasks sound like they may have a bit more significance than most careers we pursue in our current lifetime.

Could it be that when I finally start the most significant service of my life, I'll find that this is what I was truly created for? I may find that the reason I was created was not for anything I accomplish on earth, but the role I'm to fulfill forever.

I realized that my earlier question had been answered.

Why did God create a child to live two minutes?

He didn't.

He didn't create Toby to live two minutes or Mandy to live two years. He didn't create me to live 40 years (or whatever number He may choose to extend my days in this world).

God created Toby for eternity. He created each of us for eternity, where we may be surprised to find our true calling, which always seemed just out of reach here on earth.

- Marshall Shelley is editor in chief of *Leadership Journal*. This article was originally published in *Christianity Today*, May 16, 1994. Copyright © 2011 by the author or *Christianity Today/Leadership Journal*.