

We are Celebrating 18 Years of
Correspondence Ministry!



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Monthly Newsletter



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IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

(Scripture Reading Psalm 23)

Dear Chosen One: King David started Psalm 23 by saying “**The Lord is my Shepherd**”. I want you to take note, he did not say the Lord is a Shepherd, the Lord is the Shepherd, or the Lord is *our* Shepherd. David says, the Lord is **my** Shepherd. He was confident who his Shepherd was.

Many people have heard and read this Psalm, some people may have repeated it in Church or memorized it to comfort them during some difficult times. On the other hand, there are some people who have never heard or read the Psalm 23. Maybe, some people may have read it but don't understand the full concept of what it really means to have a personal Shepherd in their life. For others, this Psalm may be just words in the Bible that some ancient King wrote that cannot impact their life today.

When King David wrote this Psalm, he was making a powerful statement to the people in his era and to you and I today. This Psalm is still use worldwide to comfort many people. So, let's look at these five words in Psalm 23, “**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.**” When you are confident that Jesus is your Lord, you can confidently say, the Lord is my Shepherd. By saying this you have made yourself vulnerable. You have humbled yourself and you are saying, I am a man or woman who needs the Shepherd to guide me. When you admit that you need help the Shepherd will step in and take control of your situation.

The Shepherd is the One who provides for the sheep. My sisters and brothers, when you are under the care of the Shepherd, He will provide all of your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19.)

The Shepherd knows when the sheep are hungry. He knows each sheep by name and what that sheep needs. He has keen eyes, the Shepherd is always looking and checking to see what the sheep needs to become strong and healthy. The Shepherd is the source that provides for the sheep, any sheep under the Shepherd's care will not lack any good thing.

The Shepherd knows where the green pastures are. His love for His sheep sends Him in search of green pastures, which is the best place for the sheep to graze. The Shepherd knows that green pastures have nutrients to help the sheep grow.

It is the same with us as we have the Word of God to feed on. There is no shortage of green pastures/spiritual food for us. The Word of God is available 24 hrs., 365 days a year, but we must read it to grow. If the sheep do not eat what the Shepherd provides, they will not grow— if we do not study and meditate on the Word of God, we will not grow spiritually or become mature Christians.

In Joshua 1:8, Joshua was told “**Keep this Book of the law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**” When the sheep is thirsty, the Shepherd does not send the sheep by itself to go and get water. No! Sheep do not foresee the danger that is lurking beneath the water. So, the Shepherd leads the sheep beside still waters where there is no danger. The Shepherd stands over the sheep and watch them drink as much water as they need but never allow them to overdrink. Water quenches the sheep thirst, but it can become dangerous for the sheep if they overdrink, they can drown.

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No sheep is exempt from going through the “**Valley of shadow of death**” Oftentimes sheep get distracted while grazing and go off the path and end up in the valley of death or danger. Or sometimes the Shepherd will lead the sheep through the valley of shadow of death in order to get them to the other side of the Mountain where there is greener pasture.

The sheep feel comfortable walking through the valley because they know that the Shepherd is caring and loving, and He will not allow anyone or anything to harm them. The valley is a lonely, dark, and rough place. The sheep is not experienced or fit to survive the valley but when the Lord is your Shepherd, and you are following His lead you will always come out of the valley.

However, during the valley experience, if the sheep gets lost, and start to cry, get frustrated, feels weary, or even become hopeless thinking that this experience is permanent, all is not lost. As soon as the sheep starts to bleep (call out) to the Shepherd He will secure the other sheep and go looking for that lost or stranded sheep.

When you and I find ourselves in the valley and we call out to the Shepherd, He will come and rescue us. Jesus says, in Matthew 28:20 “...**Surely, I am with you always to the very end of the age.**” Yes! The Shepherd that leads the sheep to green pasture can lead the sheep through the valley. The Shepherd has a rod and a staff. The rod is used to correct those sheep who want to disobey the Shepherd and the staff is used to guide and rescue the sheep from any danger.

People of God, today, I want to encourage you to look to the Shepherd and allow Him to lead, guide, direct and correct your life. Jesus is waiting for you to call Him. You may be going through a difficult time right now because you have NOT made the Lord your Shepherd. You know Him as Lord, Jesus, Provider, Savior, Healer, Way Maker, but you have not made Him your SHEPHERD. When you make Jesus your Shepherd, you are also giving Him total control over all your affairs. All that concerns you, will concern Him.

Let me give you a hint. After every valley experience, the Shepherd prepares a table before the sheep to display His love for them. He wants to show the enemy that He is still the **GOOD SHEPHERD** who provides for each sheep. He wants your enemies to see you sitting and enjoying to best things in life. The Shepherd wants your enemies to know that the Greater One lives inside of you. He wants your enemies to know that “**He is the King of Glory the Lord strong and Mighty in Battle.**” (Psalm 24:8)

The Shepherd wants your enemies to see what they meant to harm you--God used to prepare you to excel in your divine assignment. Yes! This is the time to sit at your table in the presence of your enemies and you will fear no evil. While you were in the valley, some people laughed at you, spoke ill about you, turned their backs on you, refused to accept your calls, and wish that you will never come out of the valley. But the tables have turned. The Shepherd prepared a table and positioned you at the head for everyone to see.

The LORD is anointing your head with Oil, saturating your wounds, and soothing your pain. Today, your cup will overflow with blessings. He has prepared you to do great work for the Kingdom of God. The anointing will also break the yokes of bondage. Don't fear, you have been through the valley and now the Shepherd is leading you to the Mountain top. Don't look back or question what you had gone through. You had to experience the valley to help those who are still stuck in there.

You were the one sheep that got lost and the Shepherd left the other 99 sheep and came to rescue you. From this day forward, Goodness and Mercy will follow you all the days of your life. This is your opportunity to display God's divine Favor on your life and show mercy to others. Jesus wants the World to know that He is still the Faithful Shepherd that King David wrote about in Psalm 23. It doesn't matter what you go through in life, the Lord will always be there to lead, guide and direct you to the green pasture as long as He is your Shepherd.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT AND HELP YOU WITH YOUR RE-ENTRY WHEN YOU GET OUT.

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