



The Lord is my Shepherd

Introduction

Today I want to share with you about the Lord being our shepherd.

We all have heard and know Psalm 23 and some of us can quote it by heart but what does it mean to have the Lord as your shepherd and why do we often not experience all the good things that this Psalm offers us.

So, let's read **Psalm 23** *"¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

The Lord is my shepherd

The first thing you and I need to understand to be able to claim these promises found in Psalm 23 is that the Lord spoken of here is the Triune God - God the Father, God the Son, Jesus, God the Holy Spirit.

This God is our shepherd! Now how can God be your shepherd if you have not submitted your life to Him and you have not become one of His sheep?

You see in order for a sheep to be protected by the shepherd, the shepherd had to own the sheep, or the sheep are his to look after, so there is ownership and responsibility for the sheep by the shepherd and that responsibility is because the sheep are his and the shepherd owns or is responsible for the sheep.

If I walked up to a flock of sheep and took them it would be stealing, I have to buy the sheep in order to own them.

So, if the Lord is your shepherd you need to be bought with a price and guess what?

Jesus Christ came to the earth, God becoming man and then growing up as a man, with all the limitation of a man and also all the temptation of man, yet the Bible says without any sin – Jesus Christ never committed any sin, because if He has committed any sin He would not be able to die for sin.

Do you know why Jesus Christ has to become man? The reason is that God is a Spirit, **John 4:24** says *"⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*

Now we know we need a body to operate on earth because what happens when you die, the spirit and soul separate from the body and go back to God their creator.



So, a spirit needs a body to operate on earth, which is why a demon is looking for a body to possess so that they can operate on earth, and this is the reason why Jesus Christ had to be born of a woman so that He could operate here on earth.

And Jesus Christ needed a body to be tempted in all way as we are and yet remain without sin or be sinless, so that He could be the sacrifice for the SIN of the entire Human race, if there was just one sin, Jesus Christ could not die for SIN.

Just think of this, all the SIN of every person that has ever or will ever live on this earth has been paid for by the Death of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary. You sin, my sin, everyone sin was place on Jesus Christ and God the Father pour out all the punishment your and my and the entire Human races Sin on Jesus Christ at the Cross of Calvary.

That is why the Crucifixion was so bloody and goory and ugly because God took our SIN and place it on Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ paid for our SIN – Isiaha 52:14 says this *"¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him - his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness"*

Jesus Christ was beaten beyond human likeness, people just saw a bloody body, and He did it for you!

So, you have a choice today? Wither you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sin, or He did not.

Whether we believe it or not our sin, all or sin in our lifetime was paid for in FULL by JESUS CHRIST at the Cross of Calvary and this includes ALL the SIN of the human race, that is why to reject Jesus Christ's sacrifice at Calvary is eternal death, separation from God and eternal punishment in Hell and later the Lake of Fire.

Alter call

So, if the Lord is not your shepherd, you have not submitted to Him, then today would be a good time to come to Him and say, Lord God I believe that Jesus Christ paid the full price for my sin today.

If that is you I want you to stand right now and I will pray for you. I am not finished with my message, but it is important to give everyone an opportunity to accept or reject Jesus Christ right now, so if you want to surrender your life to God and accept Jesus Christ death for your sin, please stand right now.

Let's pray...



Continuing

Amen, we have only looked a verse one of Psalm 23 and even verse 1 is not finished it says, *"¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing".*

You have just made the Lord your Shepherd, you have done this by asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Saviour submitted to the Great Shepherd and you are now one of His sheep and because you have done this the verse says, you lack nothing!

Wow, what does it mean to lack nothing? I do not have money; I do not have possession so now God is going to give me ...

No this has nothing to do with money, possessions, or wealth it means that there is nothing else that you need, if you have the Lord as your Shepherd then you have it all because the Shepherd will care for His sheep.

When you became God's child you inherited the Kingdom of God, you are not a Prince and Princess of the Most High God, you have been adopted as one of His children and you are part of His sheepfold, you are one of His sheep and He WILL care for you and you will lack nothing because the shepherd has done it all and He will take care of you, you just have to trust Him.

Tranquillity

The next verse says, *"² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,"*, what does that mean? Will I lie down in a green pasture and walk by quiet water, so I can relax now and never work again because God is going to take care of me?

No, this is talking about a future events in heaven when we will do these things, but we can experience this tranquilly, this peace that God wants to give us in the midst of our life, of pain, of victory or any situation, God being your Shepherd will bring peace, direction and His leading.

All these are metaphors for peace and tranquillity that only God can give you and so as you allowed the Lord to be your Shepherd allow His peace, His joy, His Favour, and Blessing to flow over you today.

Guidance

The next verse that, *"³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."*

Only God can refresh us in every walk of life and only He can guide us in the correct plan and path of life, not for any other reason but because of His Name's sake.

God is the only person in the universe that know you and knows your and my future. He knows everything about us, our best parts, and our worst failures, He knows about every sin, in fact right now He knows whether you are saved or not.



Not everyone who declares that Jesus Christ is Lord is saved, I see you do not believe me so let me ask you. Do demons know the Jesus Christ is God? Do demons know that God raised Him from the dead? Do demons believe that Jesus Christ is Lord? They do but yet **James 2:19** says that "***19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.***"

Are demons going to heaven? No, even though they know that Jesus Christ is Lord and He is, even though they believe that He is God, they will not be saved, and there are people in church today, maybe even here that believe in Jesus Christ and believe everything we do but it does not affect or change their life because it is head knowledge and this head knowledge must drop a few centimetres into our heart and therefore because we believe when we have life change, what does 2 Corinthians 5:17 say, "***17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!***"

Believing alone is not enough we need to do, we need to become, and we need to change into they what we believe, there must be life change.

If you were a thief before and then you get saved, if you continue to be a thief are you saved? Has life change come? No.

Whatever you were before because of sin and there is not life change when you meet Jesus Christ all you did was believe but there was/is not life change.

Anyone, are you anyone?

If anyone is in Christ, they have received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, the new creation has come, they have been changed from a normal sinner to a Christian, God child saved by the Blood, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Not only all this which is where most of us stop and we miss the life change – the OLD is GONE – the old life, the things you used to do are GONE, if you still are entangled in your OLD LIFE then something is wrong, your old life, the old you, the way you live, thought, acted is DEAD, has died.

The old man must die so that the new man may come and when you become the new man, you change from what you were to a totally new person, you stop swearing, losing your temper, stop sleeping around, stop cheating people, stop stealing, stop lying etcetera, you stop living as you did before and change your old way of life into God's new plan for your life, you are saved, you have become the new man, you are now a Christian.

Now is that easy? No, it can be very difficult and through falling and getting up and repenting and stop doing what you used to do, gradually day by day you will have and get victory over your past way you live.

Contrary to what you think, there was a time when I used to drink beer, I used to swear and curse, I used to lie but then I met Jesus and I changed, no more drinking, no more cursing, no more losing my temper.

Did it happen overnight, no it took a while for me to overcome, something was changed immediately, secondly I deal with the issues that were hard through renewing my mind like **Romans 12:2** says.



What I am trying to say is that when you meet Jesus there must be life change, if not your just said a pray and nothing changed.

When you submit your life to God, then and only then He will refresh your soul, refresh you and make you content and when you know Him and you can hear His voice He will guide you alone right paths because of His Name and for His Name's sake.

Did you know there are two wills of God, His permissive and His perfect will of God. With the perfect will of God there is His guidance and His provision and in the permissive will there is very little provision and guidance.

How do you know God has spoken to you and called you, there is provision and there is guidance and there is peace, if you do not have this then ask God to show you what His plan is for you.

Protection

Next is God's promise of protection, *"⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. "*

No matter what situation you find yourself in even in the midst of a war or deadly place, you do not have to fear any evil, because God Himself is with you.

Why? **2 Timothy 1:7** says that *"⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* Is it not strange how people act when there is fear? Just look at what happened with COVID-19, my wife and I went to a grocery store the night before we had lock down to buy some yeast for break making, when we got to the store it was basically empty, people had in fear made debt and bought everything they thought they might need and not need, why because they were scared, they were in fear and that cause them not to act in love, no hope and definitely not in a sound mind.

With God provision you do not have to fear because God will provide, as long as you follow his Word and His leading so that His rod and staff will guide you and COMFORT you, give you peace and security among chaos.

Provision

"⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

God promised to protect us and lead us but in the midst of you enemies, in the midst of turmoil, fear, and anxiety, His presence brings you peace and you can eat and be fed.

There is excess because He anoints you head with oil, which means ownership, God marks you and because He has marked you and anointed you, He provides overflow in the midst of all of this.



Security

***6** Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

God does all of this, and His goodness and His love will follow you wherever you go.

I like to refer to this to the two angels of Psalm 23, because there two angels name GOODNESS and LOVE will follow me wherever I go, can you imagine what this means?

God's goodness, which is His full supply of everything we need in overflow, in abundance, **Philippians 4:19** / **Matthew 6:25-34** and others verse, and His Love will follow you like you shadow some of the days of your life? Do yourself a favour and look up in your Bible every time is says God love, like **John 3:16**, For God so loved....

No, ALL the days of your life, God Favour will rest on you for ever and when you die, He will give you a heavenly place to stay with Him forever.

Conclusion

Wow what an incredible Psalm, Plam 91 is. There is so much more to this Psalm, we have only scratched the surface, but God loves, God has planned for you to succeed and experience His Provision, Love and Favour for the rest of your life, all you have to do is submit your life to Him.

Amen!

Let's pray...

***3** he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."*