

**Psalm 23, *The Shepherd Psalm*  
And the New Testament Parallels**

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*V1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." John 10:3, 4, 11, 14.

The Good Shepherd Leads us, feeds us, guides us, protects us, watches over us, rescues us, brings us back when we stray. He calls us by name. He knows us, each one, individually. Luke 15:3-7.

We shall not want or lack, because God and the Good Shepherd provide all our needs according to His riches in glory. Philippians 4:19. He is the One who gives us life, and life abundantly. John 10:10, John 6:35, 51.

*V2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures.*

Jesus said, "Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28-30.

Before we repent and believe the Good News of the Gospel, by confessing our sins, turning from our sins, and making Jesus our Lord and God and Shepherd, and live by believing in Him as our Saviour, we are burdened down with the load of our own sins and guilt. But when we believe in Jesus, and the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross for our sins, God cleanses us from all our sins and declares us to be righteous in His sight. Mark 1:15, John 3:3, 5, John 3:16, John 1:12, 1John 1:9, 7, Revelation 1:5, Romans 5:9. Jesus is our PEACE. Ephesians 2:14.

*V2 He leads me beside still waters.*

These are the still waters mentioned in Isaiah 8:6. This is the water of the Holy Spirit which Jesus promised to give to all who believe in Him. John 4:10, 14. These are the waters of life that flow out of the heart of those who believe in Him, to bring eternal life to others. John 7:37-39. As in Isaiah 8:6, the waters of the Holy Spirit flow softly as a still small voice. 1Kings 19:12.

*V3 He restores my soul.*

As we read the Bible, God's Word of life and truth, the Holy Spirit speaks to us and we behold His glory. Exodus 33:18,19.

As we behold His glory we are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord. 2Corinthians 3:18.

In this way the Lord restores our souls, so that with our minds we understand God's Word, Ephesians 1:17, 18, with our wills we are able to choose and do God's will, Philippians 2:13, and with our emotions we are able to love and obey God. Romans 5:5.

God transforms into the same image as the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 8:29. (God's Word is like a mirror. James 1:21-24.)

*V3 He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.*

When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God imputes God's righteousness to us. 2Corinthians 5:21.

We are "justified" in God's sight, "just as if we had never sinned." Romans 5:9, Romans 5:1. We are in right standing before God. Secondly, God is always at work in us to make us willing and able to obey His purposes. Philippians 2:13.

As we believe and confess His promises, such as Romans 6:6 and 6:11, the power of sin is broken and we can obey God.

This is the righteousness of behaviour. 1John 3:7. God leads us to stand in righteousness and behave in righteousness.

*V4 Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me, Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.* The Lord turns the shadow of death into morning. Amos 5:8. God is always with us and helps us. Hebrews 13:5, 6. I think that God's "rod" is His authority and Name, the "Lord Jesus Christ". Revelation 2:26, 27.

And I think that His staff is the Holy Spirit who comforts us, John 14:26, and leads and guides us into all truth. John 16:13.

*V5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, and my cup runs over.*

The Lord's Table is at the Communion Service where we take the Bread of the remembrance of His Body broken for us, and take the Cup of remembrance of His shed Blood, the New Covenant in His Blood, shed for many for the remission of sins.

1Corinthians 11:23-26, Matthew 26:27, 28, John 6:35, 51, 1Peter 2:24.

Here, at the Communion Service, the cup of Mercy, Grace and Truth is running over.

As we ask the Father, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, He pours out upon us the anointing and fullness of His Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:11, (God's Word is a FIRE: Jeremiah 23:29, 20:9, 5:14), Luke 11:13, 1John 2:27, Ephesians 5:18, 19, Acts 19:2, 6.

(Billy Graham's Mother taught him that "God is Spirit, Infinite, Eternal and Unchanging.") from "Peace With God"

*V6 Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord for ever.*

When Almighty God gave Moses a revelation of His Glory, Exodus 33:18, 19, "goodness and mercy" are two aspects of His Glory that were revealed. Moses did not see God's Face, Exodus 33:20-23, but only His back. God's Glory was shining from His back. The Glory of God was also covering David's back, and is covering the back of all believers in Jesus.

Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the Household of God.

Ephesians 2:19-22, Revelation 3:12, 1Corinthians 6:19, 20.