

Christian Group Writing Project



*All about
Psalms 23*

Written By:
26 Christian Bloggers

Brought To You by:
Faithful Bloggers.com

Introduction

Faithful Bloggers is a community for Christian bloggers. Our purpose is to provide a common ground where we can encourage one another to use our blogs for the glory of God. While we want to mix and mingle and have fun, our purpose is to help you build a blog that will glorify the Lord while also strengthening your relationship with Him.

Why was Faithful Bloggers started?

As blogging continues to grow in popularity amongst women, a wonderful benefit to this “hobby” has arisen. The ability to meet new friends and form relationships is easier than ever. For those who are in rural areas or are housebound in some way, meeting someone is as easy as turning on your computer and relaying your thoughts. For Christians a challenge becomes apparent. Due to the rampant ungodliness that abounds on the Internet, the world of blogging is an overwhelming and often scary place to be. Where can a person who is striving to live the Christian life find an online area of common ground where she can build those godly relationships? Searching for Christian bloggers can be achieved through a simple search. It is overwhelming, however, to find that sense of community with a common purpose – becoming holy and serving our God – when we limit it to just searching through a search engine. Thus, Faithful Bloggers was born.

The Project

Faithful Bloggers issued a group writing challenge and 26 Christian bloggers stepped up and met the challenge.

The Challenge

The topic for the first ever Faithful Blogger’s Group Writing Project was Psalms 23. Each blogger selected a verse and wrote a post explaining what that verse means to them. It could be as long or as short as they wanted. It could be a personal testimony, a devotional, or Bible study in nature. The only rule was that it had to be about a verse from Psalms 23.

Psalms 23

- 1. The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want.***
- 2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.***
- 3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.***
- 4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou [art] with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.***
- 5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.***
- 6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.***

Psalm 23:1

“The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want.”

Psalm 23 is a very well-known Psalm of David. David had been a shepherd in his youth and had personal experience with the responsibilities of a shepherd. Dutifully he had to watch over the sheep and take care of their every need...lead them. He also had the duty to protect them from harmful predators and keep a watchful eye over any sheep that may be wandering astray.

To be a good shepherd must have been full-time job and an exhausting one at times, I am sure. From a mother's view point of taking care of her own little “flock” at home, it's hard to imagine the responsibility of managing a whole flock of sheep. A good shepherd would never leave his sheep alone, wandering helplessly. (Would we as mothers leave our little toddlers out wandering down the street alone?) The shepherd cared for his sheep with compassion. Ancient shepherds knew each of their sheep by name. They were familiar with their individual characteristic marks, their peculiarities, their personal habits and tendencies, etc.

To begin the day of leading his sheep, a shepherd's morning call was a distinctive guttural sound. In trusting obedience, each flock would rise and follow its master to the feeding grounds. Amazingly, even if two shepherds called out to their flocks at the same time where the sheep were intermingled, they were able to recognize their own shepherd's voice. They never followed the wrong shepherd.

When we realize the great responsibility of a shepherd, we can truly begin to appreciate David's remarkable statement when he says, “The Lord is my Shepherd.”

There's three simple points that I would like ponder....

1. We have a choice to follow.

Our Heavenly Father wants to be our Shepherd, but He gives us a choice to follow. He did not create us to act as robots upon forced command. Because Jesus willingly laid his life down upon the cross to pay for our sins, we should willingly repent of our sin and accept Him as our personal Savior, allowing Him to become our Good Shepherd. (See YourFreeGift.org)

Jesus says in John 10:11,27, *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”*

2. When we follow, we do not lack.

For those who scoff at Christianity, claiming it to be a mere “security blanket” to believers, they’re truly missing the absolute joy of having such a tender, loving, caring Shepherd. Never do we have to face life difficulties and struggles alone. Never is there a need or worry that we cannot approach our Heavenly Father and simply *ask* Him to meet our urgent need.

Matthew 7:11 – *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?”*

3. When we follow, our future is covered as well.

As we take one more quick glance at verse 1, we notice the particular word, *“shall”* not want. The word “shall” may express our near future, our tomorrow (*isn’t that what we usually worry about?*), but it also expresses what will definitely be done.

We might claim to our neighbor that “tomorrow we *might* pick blackberries if it doesn’t rain.” But, when we use the word “shall”, we have obviously mustered up the determination that we’re definitely going to do something whether rain or sunshine...it’s definitely getting done!

God already knows all about tomorrow and our future needs...all our needs “shall” be met...we shall not want!

Matthew 6:8 – *“Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him.”*

When we let Jesus become our good Shepherd, we do not lack. Our every need is met...emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. *Won't you follow Him today?*

--Rhonda White, [Her Christian Home](#)

Is there any bad verse in Psalm 23? Not to me, and I could have written on any of the verses. When I signed up only one blogger had verse 1 while the other verses had more than one person blogging. So...I took verse one.



I love the image of God as a shepherd. I've done a bit of reading about shepherds and the image of us being sheep is pretty accurate. Sheep aren't too bright, and if they don't have a shepherd protecting them a number of bad scenarios take place.

They could be devoured by their enemy.

They could fall off a cliff.

They wouldn't know a good place to find shelter

They'd be led astray by just about anything.

With those kind of statistics, I'd say following a shepherd is a pretty good plan. A shepherd tends to the flock with a pure focus. It's his job to keep them safe and protect them from danger. He provides for them.

With that kind of job description, the sheep lack for nothing.

Kind of like me.

When I'm on my own or following anything things or people, I'm led astray. I love my chocolate and I joke about it a lot, but it never truly fulfills. I love my husband and for years I gave him the shepherd job description and it didn't fit. Money and things left me wanting too.

Following the Shepherd called God My Father through a deep friendship with His Son Jesus is as fulfilling as it gets.

He IS my shepherd.

I shall NOT want.

I WILL praise His name.

How about you? What comes to your mind when you read Psalm 23:1?

--Julie, [The Surrendered Scribe](#)

I've been thinking about this verse for several days. I was originally going to write about how God has met our family's needs so many times. But as I thought about all the little instances, none seemed to stand out as large enough to write about. And the more I thought about this verse, the more I thought about Christians around the world whose needs aren't met.

I know there are Christians who do go hungry at times. I know there are Christians who are homeless. It's so easy to look at this verse from an affluent American point of view, yet there are even Christians facing hunger or homelessness in America. Though our family is not rich by American standards, I know we are rich compared to many people around the world.

As a teenager, my family was stationed in Panama (with the Army) for awhile. Being a family who likes to get off the beaten path, we traveled into some more rural areas, away from the big cities and the military bases. I saw poverty and subsistence living in person. We visited the orphanage where many of the kids weren't actually orphans, and weren't available for

adoption. They lived there because their families couldn't afford to feed them, and they only saw their families on special occasions.

While there, we adopted my youngest sister. She is Cuna Indian, and many Cuna Indian children were placed for adoption with American families (especially girls) because Cuna families are very large, the San Blas Islands are overcrowded, and they are struggling to feed their families. Our baby sister arrived to us with nothing worse than scabies. But others we knew arrived to their new families malnourished and full of parasites.

When faced with the knowledge that our life is very rich and blessed compared to a large portion of the world, and knowing that some of those who do "want" are Christians, I have to consider that this verse has more spiritual applications than just the physical. When a Christian family is homeless, or hungry, they still have hope and faith and joy in Christ. When healing doesn't come for a loved one, they still have peace and hope.

God is God, and His ways are not my ways. When He promises blessings, it may not be physical blessings. When we trust in Him as our shepherd, we shall not want. That may mean that when times are difficult, and we are "wanting" physical things ... we are able to rest in Him and trust ... despite the lack of physical blessings.

I'll be honest. My family has never gone hungry, we've never been homeless, and Steve has never been unemployed. We've never faced the loss of one of our children or a serious illness. Sometimes I fear that our turn is coming. We can't go "untouched" forever. Looking at this verse, though, I know that if and when our turn comes ... God will still be my shepherd and I will not want. He will meet my needs, though He may not rescue us out of the painful situation. I trust Him, even if He leads me into places I would rather not go.

--April, [ElCloud Homeschool](#)

As a child one of the first Psalms I memorized was the beloved 23rd Psalm. I remember standing, nearly 30 years ago, in front of my Sunday School class reciting the Psalm to my teacher. The story is told of one little girl, who when reciting the Psalm said, "The Lord is my shepherd and that's all I want!" It's not quite KJV but still very well said.

Throughout my Christian life this psalm has brought great comfort. A few days ago, at the funeral of a dear friend, the 23rd Psalm was read. It is just six short verses but so much more than mere poetry. By no accident, the Shepherd's Psalm is enclosed between the Psalm of the Cross and the Psalm of the King of Glory. The psalm is so simple that a young child could read it and grasp its superb meaning. Yet, it is profound enough that theologians could spend years trying to truly understand it. Too often I skim over the all too familiar verses. I'm afraid many of us do. But have you ever stopped and just meditated on the psalm? Better yet, have you taken the time to dwell on the first verse or even just the first few words?

The Lord...

He is my Saviour. He is the One who died and gave His life. He is the Son of God. Jesus Christ, the name above all names. He is my Master. I owe Him everything!

The Lord is...

He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Bright and Morning Star, the Chief Cornerstone, the Daystar, the Deliverer, The Faithful and True, the Holy One, the King of Kings, the Lord of lords, the Prince of Peace, the Righteous Judge, the Word of Life.

The Lord is my...

He is my strength, my fortress, my rock, my salvation, my God, my buckler, my high tower, my redeemer, my shield, my refuge.

The Lord is my shepherd...

As a helpless lamb He gathers me in His arms. He carries me in His bosom. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still, calm waters. He gently leads me in paths of righteousness. I do not fear when He is near. His rod and staff comforts me.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

I shall not want. When I think about that statement I am overwhelmed. The Good Shepherd provides for all my needs. I will never lack for anything. Of course, there are times when I do "want". It is almost always

material things that will not last. But I have never wanted for the things I needed. I am learning to be content (I Timothy 6:6-8) and trusting my Lord. *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Mat 6:31-33)*

I thank the Lord for the 23 Psalm. Even though my God is the Almighty Jehovah who spoke the world into existence, who reigns on high, whose earth is His footstool, and who turns the hearts of kings I am reminded that He is also the Good Shepherd, loving and kind. He cares for me as a tender lamb. He rejoices over one lost sheep. He lovingly guides me all the days of my life. Yes, the Lord is my shepherd and that's all I want.

-- Kimberly, [Until the Day Dawn](#)

The Lord is my shepherd. What is a shepherd? A shepherd leads a flock of sheep to pasture, tends to them, and watches over them at night. Being a shepherd is dangerous and holds great responsibility.

The Lord God is our shepherd. He leads us in the path of life by giving us His word we can read and through prayer. We cannot always see how God is with us, but we are always in His sight. All of our needs are tended to by God. During the day, at night, and in the hard times, God never leaves us.

We are the Lord God's lambs. As lambs we are vulnerable and susceptible to danger. I was listening to the story "A Peep Behind The Scenes" by Lamplighter Theater. In the story the girl is given a picture of the Lord as a shepherd. He has bruises and blood on Him from rescuing the hurt sheep He is holding in His arms. This picture illustrates the Lord's love for us.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40:11 (KJV)

The Lord suffered and died for us. He gave His blood to rescue us. There are times we need God to rescue us and care for us because we live in a sinful world. Dangers and injuries come from our own doings and from Satan. God is there to pick us up and hold us gently in His loving arms. We can find forgiveness and help through our loving shepherd, the Lord.

Do you feel like you caught in the briars and pricklers sometimes? The Lord God, our shepherd knows what is best. He gives us plans in His word to help keep us from being caught. God will help us even if we have wandered away and put ourselves in the briars. He comes to us and softly and tenderly removes the briars that are entangling us.

I shall not want. The Lord God has everything we need. If there is something we need, God can provide it for us. This does not mean we will get everything we want. Our basic needs and sometimes our wants are taken care of when we are living for God. Our shepherd gives to us bountifully. We can take our needs and wants to the Lord in prayer and as the good shepherd He will care for us.

--Lois, [Lois Graham](#)

I don't know if you're like me, but we grew up having to memorize Psalm 23. At that time, it was just another spiritual activity enforced by parents - (sound familiar?). However, as I matured and developed my own relationship with the Lord, this Psalm took on (& has continued to) a new meaning for me.

Let's dig into verse 1 and see how different (popular) versions put it:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (KJV)

The Lord is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack. (Amplified Bible)

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. (New Living Translation)

You, Lord, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. (Contemporary English Version)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. (New International Version)

Irrespective of which version you use (or prefer), they all say one thing to me: “God’s got my back!”

It will be foolish (& I believe that there is a thin line between faith and foolishness), to say that you will never need anything. Think about it, you need air to live and have faith that God will always provide it. So, the faith-based way to put this is: “I will never be in need.”(CEV)

I cannot overemphasize that we will always need things (& people) – only the dead don’t need a thing. However, because we walk by faith and not by sight*, we can be assured that God will supply all our needs**.

Ps 23:1 is a declaration of a dependency and rare relationship that is available to any and everyone. It all starts with your decision to become one of God’s sheep...if you haven’t made that decision, please do not harden your heart***; I can assure you that’s the best decision you’ll ever make in life. Imagine a life where all your needs, and some wants too, are met from an inexhaustible supply? Now...that is the life!!!

***The Lord is my shepherd,
so I know without a shadow of doubt,
I have everything I will ever need!!!***

References:

* 2 Cor 5:7 - We live by faith, not by sight. . (New International Version)

** Phil 4:19 - And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Amplified Bible)

*** Ps 95:7 - For he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today!

--Sapphire, [Walking on Water](#)

Psalms 23:2

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”

This verse truly sprang to life for me when I moved to farming country and learned about sheep. Sheep are skittish and quite nervous by nature and will not lie down, no matter how tired, unless they feel safe and protected. This is the job of the shepherd.

I can so trust my Lord, that like the sheep, I can be refreshed and restored in His presence. He is my peace. I can lay down at His feet and find true rest.

--HisFireFly, [Flickers of a Faithful FireFly](#)

My focus will be verse 2, "**He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.**"(NKJV)

a) He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

A favorite name of Jesus Christ is The Good Shepherd. As the Lord Himself says in John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."(NKJV) A good shepherd's flock can rest peacefully, knowing that he will risk his life for their well-being. "Green pastures" represent God's provision, protection, and love for us.

I cannot count how many times I have restlessly sought peace and security. Sometimes that restlessness is a result of my somewhat competitive nature. Other times, it is a result of a truly dangerous situation. The most dramatic example is a period of homelessness which my mother and I endured a few years ago. Eventually, we knocked on the door of a faith-based women's shelter. For the first time in months, we rested--not only in the safe, supportive environment that offered shelter, food, and fellowship, but under the protective watch of the Good Shepherd.



b) He leads me beside the still waters.

Sheep become frightened by turbulent, rushing water. A caring shepherd will lead his flock to calm, still waters, where the sheep can quench their thirst in peace. The Lord's "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12, NKJV) is a soothing presence in the turmoil of our world.

During Bible studies at the women's shelter, our teachers emphasized the need for regular prayer and dialogue with the Lord. We learned to recognize the Lord's gentle voice and quiet presence. That still, small voice called my mother and I to abandon other plans and stay at the shelter as staff for 1 1/2 years.

Through our work in that ministry, we rested in the Lord and drank from His "living water" (John 4:10). After I handed all my desires to the Lord, He led me to the man who is now my husband. My old fears and competitive tendencies resurface from time to time, but I have learned to surrender to the Good Shepherd who now leads my steps.

--**Judith, [A Homemaker Speaks](#)**

Everything seems so fast paced at the moment – this week has just totally whizzed past me and now I'm at another weekend. One friend, who is a retired accountant, so he loves numbers, shared his theory with me as to why time goes so quickly the older you get: When you are One year old, one

year is 100% of your life. When you are 10 years old one year is 10% of your life. When you are 80 years old one year is 1.25% of your life and so it continues to speed up until you are ready for eternity.

But God did not design us to live so fast and to always be so busy – in a world with ipods, emails & cell phones we are rarely in a quiet place where we can really rest. I think many of us would struggle to spend a day of total rest, but yet that is what God prescribes:

Psalms 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters

I have a theory that we do not rest when we are not at peace with who we are. God tells us that because of Jesus we are enough – we don't need to earn his love or the love of others, yet we live in a whirlwind of pleasing others and proving our worth.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

I imagine that God often looks at me and says 'Child, take a break, you are making me dizzy watching you'. This Psalm speaks of how God provides for us opportunities, even in difficulties to rest.

Rest child, and let God be God. Let Him be in control.

--Tracey, [Tcsoko's Blog](#)

“He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters”

Green Pastures

It is important to remember that life is not always greener on the other side of the fence. Sometimes, everything seems to be going well and then suddenly road blocks seem to be emerging on your path. *sigh*

We experienced this last year. We had a tough year. Hard on the financial, spiritual and personal side of life. The business was struggling. Our church plant which we were pastoring had to shut its doors. I

personally experienced rejection with a close family member. But through all this, God was faithful always reminding us (together or either one of us) that He is walking with us at any times.

So we slowed down a bit and put our focus on Him. After all, in the midst of all that was happening He was still there. Waiting for us. Providing. Taking care of us.

Personally, it was also a time to reconnect with my Savior. A time to sit down and reflect on all that He has done and what He was doing. I didn't have the whole picture in front of me. Just bits and pieces but one word came over and over again – TRUST.

So God forced us to lie down, to stop wrestling with the issues that came from every sides and to connect with Him. And we went through the hard times.

Oh! We had ups and downs. Fortunately not at the same time for my husband and I. But I did felt despair at times and I turned to Him who reminded me that He was there no matter what.

This past spring, I took a picture of my daughter walking in a field. I love to think that I was walking with God in a meadow and sitting with Him to rest. I wasn't alone I know it but I can say that there was days I wondered and questioned. But in the end, I realized that He was bigger than any problem that could come my way and that He was ever present in my life.



Quiet Waters



This past Monday – we went fishing on White Lake, ON. Mind you it wasn't quiet with 6 people on the boat but I had the opportunity to take pictures of the lake and enjoy God's creation – from loons and eagles to fishes and dragonflies.

The water were not so calm that day. There were waves. But when I took this picture, the sun was rising and the water were smooth.

Quiet waters. Water of life. God himself being able to calm the storms of life – the struggles and the hurricanes going on when we don't know where to put our feet anymore.

Turning to the Bible has been a lifesaver for me. Deciding to read through the Bible since January a blessing for my life. My Transformation Study Bible has an interesting note for verse two.

“The word translated “leads” means “to lead gently”.

Apparently when you are a shepherd, you cannot drive sheep. The sheep will follow the shepherd's voice and follow him. No need to yell, to hurry them, just play calmness in the voice. This is exactly how God calms me while I go further and further in the Bible. And He is so ever gentle with me. I also took the habit recently to list my praises and thanks of the previous day in my journal. A simple thing to do everyday but so rewarding at the end when you stop writing and already you have filled a whole page in your notebook.

This got me thinking. When you go through hard times, when God shows up and helps you to slow down, there is a reason. It will help you grow close to Him, trust Him with every aspects of your life and realize that He is in control.

In case you are wondering our though times went on until early Spring. We are doing better. The business is rolling but it would be nice to have a few more opportunities of contracts. On the family side, I realized that I needed to become an intercessor for a close person in my heart. So daily I pray to God that He will work a miracle and that He will show His presence to that person. As for the church, well we are still waiting for an answer. But we also know that ultimately God is working even when we don't see it.

-- Isabelle, [Life at Oak Grove](#)

Psalm 23:2 " He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters."



First, I will look at Psalm 23:2(a). "He makes me lie down in green pastures." As I was thinking about what this verse means to me, I started to think about the life of a mom with young children. My life, specifically! I try to get up around 5:30 a.m. in order to get several things done before my children wake up. Often, I am too tired from not enough sleep the night before, and I don't get up until 6 a.m. This seems like only 1/2 hour, but it is time that I don't seem to ever get back during the day. Having 2 little ones at home all day leaves the house in constant "mess-making mode"! I have so many things that need done during the day, and it is very rare that I accomplish most of what I want to get done. I expect this, though, and that is fine. This is the season of life that I'm in right now!

Let's face it. We're all busy! God wants us to take time to re-charge our batteries, and lie down in His green pastures. He created 6 days for us to work, and 1 for us to rest. I think most of us have the 6 days of working figured out pretty well. It's the 1 day of rest that many of us neglect. I happen to believe that this day of rest does not necessarily need to be on a Sunday (just my personal belief!), but it needs to be at least 1 day out of the week. I admit that I haven't been good at doing this, at all! One day of not cleaning, and I find that my house looks like 2 tornadoes came through! I find it interesting that the verse says, "He **makes...**" God often needs to slow us down, because we are unwilling to do it on our own. He knows that we all need time to rest, or we will suffer spiritually, physically, and emotionally. We need to rest. True rest can be found in quieting ourselves in prayer and focusing on Him. He will show us how to rest in the green pastures that He has provided for us.

Are you resting in the green pastures that God has provided for you?



Psalm 23:2(b) "He leads me beside still waters."

There are so many things in life that can cause us worry, anxiety, and to feel overwhelmed. Jesus wants us to rest in Him, which is why He leads us to still waters. Still waters are calming. They are refreshing. We all need to feel refreshed now and again. Our minds are constantly "on the go", and this can be as draining as any kind of physical activity. I know that it's really easy for me to feel overwhelmed if I'm not focused on God. For example, my husband is very involved in our church, and he recently started a ministry of his own. As his ministry is getting off of the ground, he is getting busier and busier. I'm very happy for him, because we know that God is behind this. If I'm not careful, though, I can start to feel overwhelmed while thinking about our future. It can be lonely when he's gone so much, and that means longer days with the children by myself. When I start thinking this way, this is a clear sign that I need to let God lead me to the still waters that He has provided for me to rest beside. After resting with Him and gaining God's perspective on the situation, I feel refreshed! We need these still waters that He leads us to. It's so easy to ignore them, but soon we will find ourselves bitter, angry, depressed and burned out.

When you find yourself worrying or feeling lonely, depressed or overwhelmed, where (or who) do you turn to?

Are you resting beside the still waters with Him?

Thank you, Jesus, that you have provided a way for us to

truly rest. You know when we need to stop, rest, and be restored by You. You are the only one who can restore us!

-- Amy, [My Purpose In Him](#)

For an animal, the pasture is a place where the owner places it after its done its work to leisurely graze, to rest at length, and to find satisfaction and solace. A pasture will oftentimes have water running through it, where an animal can drink until it is no longer thirsty. When I read that verse, I think of all the things the Lord has done for me in my life, which includes trials he sends to refine me and strengthen my faith. Sometimes, during these same trials meant for my good and God's glory, I remind myself of a bull grabbed by the horns to be led somewhere it does not want to go.

As I continue to meditate on the passage, I have a greater understanding that the Lord, who bought my soul with His shed blood, needs me to lay my burdens down at His feet and keep them at rest. He also wants me to stop at the still waters of His Word to drink so that my soul no longer thirsts for something more than what He has placed before me by faith alone. I have kicked and stomped by way through many things, only to exhaust my heart and come back to the place where I realize the best choice is to let it go, and let the Lord take care of it. He does not need me to help Him; He only needs me to trust Him.

As Charles Spurgeon so eloquently put it, "We are not always lying down to feed, but are journeying onward toward perfection".

Life is not a race I will lose if I stumble, nor one I can win without help. My help comes from the Lord, and He is there to lead me through this journey to perfection. I cannot be led astray when I put my trust in Him.

-- Dawn, [The Huffmaster Family](#)



As I think of Psalm 23:2a and the green pastures. My mind goes to a nice spring day with lots of tender, sweet, new fresh grass in the field. I see all the sheep laying there on the soft grass either sleeping or drifting off. Nearby is a large shade tree with David the young man, as a shepherd, sitting there playing his harp.

The sheep have eaten of this tender green grass until their tummies are full and now with David playing this beautiful, sweet music on his harp it puts the sheep to sleep.

Now most often you will find sheep laying down sleeping. Not very often do sheep sleep standing up like some other animals do. The other day we were at this farmer's type park and they had a petting zoo. There was this one little sheep standing by a tree with his eyes closed. He looked like a statue or frozen in time. We watched for some time before he moved. That was one little sheep that was sleeping standing up, that is the exception to the rule.

As I think of the sheep in Psalm 23, very contented just to lay and sleep with full tummies and beautiful music. The shepherd knew he could make his sheep lie down and be contented if they were full from eating and that helped to make them sleepy.

Then there is the young child. Most children do not really want to take a nap, but we know that especially young children need that nap. Many times children are like sheep, after they eat their lunch and are no longer hungry, with full tummies they will lay down on their bed with some quite music and before long they are asleep.

What about us as adults? Of course we love to eat and most of the time we eat to much. We certainly should by this time in our lives be eating more

than physical food. We should be filling up on spiritual food from the Word of God and spending time in prayer with Him.

We surely need the spiritual food but we also need to get rest. As adults we get so busy with daily living and even the work of the church, that we do not take time to get proper rest we need. We think we are not sheep or children and do not need to rest and sleep.

Without being feed properly from God's Word and getting proper physical rest we just can not do what God has for us to do, we will only wear ourselves out and do no one any good.

The other day I was out in the 90 plus degree sun most of the day at an event. Most of the time I am not out that long in that kind of heat. By 9:00 p. m. I was in bed. The next day being Sunday, I woke later then normal, got partly ready for church and was so tired I laid back down and went to sleep. Then in the afternoon I took another nap as I still needed more sleep.

Sometimes God has to just plain slow us down to get physical rest also spiritual food and rest in Him.

Even Jesus when He was here on earth took time to rest and be alone with His Father. If Jesus needed that how much more do we need the same.

If we fail to listen to the shepherd Jesus, He can make us lie down and rest. Our Shepherd knows best.



Psalm 23:2b

“He leadeth me beside the still waters”

I think back to the Bible and David as a loving shepherd. When his sheep needed water, he was very careful to make sure he didn't take them to any

kind of rushing waters, water that was falling over rocks or creeks where there may be fast moving water. The sheep would be scared and afraid to go to the water to drink. If sheep get in fast moving water they could be carried away.

A shepherd like David would never lead his sheep where there was any danger to them.

The young child may be afraid of fast moving water. They would not want to go into a fast moving current of any kind.

A young child may be by the sea shore playing in the sand totally unaware of any danger. An unexpected large wave could come and wash over the child. A parent that loves his child is not going to let him or her in the fast moving current or leave them alone on the sea shore for a wave to get them. The parent as a shepherd will only lead their young child to the quiet, slow waters.

Then there is us as adults, we get so caught up with the fast moving pace of life. Many times it seems like we are caught in the raging river and unable to get out. How did that happen? Because we failed to listen to the shepherd who wanted to lead us by the still waters. On hot summer days we need lots of water to drink. We need to come to the fountain of living water that our Shepherd has for us and take time to drink.

Whether it be the sheep, a child or us as adults, the Shepherd is there to lead us all the way.

-- Nancy, [Nancy Lewis](#)

Psalms 23:3

“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

Let’s start with *he restores my soul.*

That's a loaded statement and I could go on and on about just this statement! But the main thing it means to me is that the soul I used to have – my sinners soul, my broken soul, my hurt soul – He has restored. I'm still a sinner but now because he's restored that part of my soul I'm more aware of when I'm doing something wrong and know that I need to go to him and ask forgiveness.

Before I became a Christian I had a broken and hurt soul. I was carrying around so much hurt and anger and bitterness that my life was so sad and unhappy. I found early on in life that people would hurt me in ways that no one should have to ever be hurt which turned me into being a totally selfish person, building up walls around my heart to keep people out. The problem with that was that it left me more broken and hurt. Once I gave my life to God he restored that broken and hurt soul and I was able to learn to let go of all the garbage that was making me broken and hurt. Sure I still have moments where I feel broke, angry, hurt, etc but God always reminds me that He has restored my soul. To me it also means that when I grow tired and weary he restores me and my soul.

Now let's look at *He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

To me this part of the verse has always simply meant that the plan and purpose He has for my life is a plan and purpose that will lead me to do (as long as I choose to do it) things that will further His kingdom and bring glory to His name. Just like the verse Jeremiah 29:11 says, *for I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,* it ties into this verse. God has plans and a purpose for me because that's how he'll prosper His Kingdom – by giving all of us a hope and a future.

Sometimes, it's hard to put into words what a verse(s) means to me so I hope this made sense 😊

-- Tishia Lee, [Adventures of a Single WAHM](#)

This is my testimony.

Jesus came into my heart, when I invited him at the age of 7, one Sunday night, at home, after church, and I followed up the very next Sunday, with baptism to announce my salvation.

I attended church faithfully and was active in the church's children's program and then youth group, but I didn't have a strong Bible study and daily walk with Him. He never left me, and I never became "unsaved", but I felt the need to "rededicate" my life often. He was always there to "restore my soul".

When I was in high school, I did some things that I thought would make other people like me. Then, I tried to do some things to cover up my sins. When I repented of my sins, he restored my soul. He restores my soul daily, when I repent of my sins and commit my day to Him, and He guides me daily in paths of righteousness for His name sake. I am still a sinner and not worthy of His grace and mercy, but I am a Christian, and desire to always be in His will. I desire to do what is right. I desire to do what He has planned for me. He is leading me in paths of righteousness, for His glory, to try to help bring others to Him.

-- Sandy, [The Tablet of My Heart](#)

Not knowing what to do, as the deadline approaches, I've decided to write exactly how I feel at this moment, for I truly need the Lord to restore my soul, and lead me in paths of righteousness right now.

When I signed up to participate on Faithful Bloggers in the Group Writing Project on Psalm 23 and I chose verse 3 ("He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake") I thought it would be so wonderful and envisioned pouring over the Scriptures and digging deeper into a chapter that has significant meaning for me. During recuperation from ovarian cancer, while undergoing chemotherapy, this was one of the few chapters of the Bible that I still could remember, or that meant anything to me. I thought about the verses, running over and over them in my mind.

Chemo has had one dismal effect on me, and that is my loss of memory, and thinking ability. Lately, I've been having especial difficulty with the inability to remember--virtually anything. After signing up to write on this verse, it was as if it had never happened. About two days ago, when I received a "reminder" email from Courtney of Faithful Bloggers, I began to read it with a puzzled look on my face, and then sudden dawning! Oh, no!! I'd totally forgotten about it!! How could I have forgotten?! Now I was faced with the fact that the weekend was completely filled with the arrival of my brother and nephew from out-of-state, and family gatherings, and 11 people at my home for dinner and spending the day and evening with us today. When everyone had left tonight earlier than I expected (about 8:30), I thought, "Thank you, Lord, it's only 8:30 p.m. and you've given me time to write something, (though I'd prayed and prayed for wisdom on what to write and nothing was coming). My mind felt like mush and I was fighting falling asleep, but I was determined to use the time and write *something*! It might not be great, but I was not going to back out on a commitment!!

I made my husband some popcorn and while he sat at his laptop, I sat down--exhausted--to try to write. Two minutes later, my husband, obviously seeing an opportunity, began to talk to me about his ideas for plans for a trip in a couple of months, one which I've been begging to postpone (or at least postpone the planning of) because of all the company we've had this summer. I love to plan trips! I absolutely love to travel. But, I have felt so incapable of thinking about this trip until all our company is gone, and in my soul (one definition is "my mind, will and emotions,") I have felt my brain lock up, my will stiffen and my emotions overrun. I sat listening to him talk, but I was quickly becoming overwhelmed. I've been trying to do a better job of showing him respect, and love, by encouraging his ideas, and vision for our family. Right now, though, my desire to meet my commitment, my exhaustion, and my frustration over this trip planning (which had not been going well,) but wanting to show respect to my husband at the same time, was bringing great conflict within me. Floodwaters rising fast within me and gasping for air, something horrible was imminently going to happen unless I found an escape route fast! I felt

like I was going to explode. Pretty much, I did. That "conversation" not having gone well, my husband went to bed, and I sat in utter frustration, feeling even more of a failure. My mind unable to even think clearly, I sat and tried to understand what had just happened and what I was supposed to do. ("He leads me in paths of righteousness.")

Wondering why the Lord had allowed all this to happen, and why He was not answering my prayer for insight, I considered just saying, "I can't do it." But, that just didn't seem right. So, I tried to see what the Lord was trying to tell me. I have felt like such a failure lately. As a wife, I see so many ways I need to improve. As a woman, as a mom, as a housewife...well, let's just say "inadequate" was an apt word to describe my feelings about myself lately. How could I write something profound when my soul was so empty. I'm on empty, and I'm supposed to write something to fill someone else's tank? Not possible. Then I realized, God was giving me an opportunity to live it out. To show, rather than tell, Psalm 23:3.

Bringing my emptiness to Him, I acknowledged to Him (once more) that I can't do it. I **am** inadequate. I **am** not able. I need Him so much! Right now, bringing my empty soul (mind, will, and emotions) to Him, He begins to fill me with a sense of His presence, and the knowledge of His love for me. He leads me to verses that comfort me and show me others in the Bible (many others) have felt the same way. In fact, in the Bible, no one was able. They all were "failures" in one way or another, at one time or another. They and I have one thing in common--we all have had to trust and rely on Christ.

Thinking on Scripture, He wraps His truth around my mind like a blanket. He reminds me that the reason I'm "undone" is that my physical body needs rest and sleep! He encourages me to try again tomorrow. He bathes my soul with the oil of His Spirit, wraps me in His love and tenderly hovers over me singing songs of love and encouragement. He exhorts me to ask forgiveness. He brings to my mind how others in the Bible have followed His ways, how they have made things right, how they have kept on following Him through difficult times, and trials, by laying before Him their

problems, and obeying what He told them (one example from my reading yesterday morning is Hezekiah--read Isaiah 37-40) He shows me that He always answers my prayers. Even now, when I thought He wasn't giving me any help or answer (for I truly heard nothing from Him) He was answering, and using my emptiness to speak to me.

Restoration of my soul doesn't happen overnight, or in a moment. It begins in a moment perhaps, but it is a healing. It takes time. My soul will be so much better after a good night's sleep, for one thing. I must get the physical rest I need, and spend time in His Word. I must restore relationships by asking forgiveness, and He will show me where I've veered off the path, but then I must allow Him to bring me back to the "paths of righteousness". When you've gone off track a ways, you sometimes lose time, but He can "restore the years the locusts have eaten." He is absolutely faithful, and I must never forget that. He will restore my soul and lead me in paths of righteousness--for His Name's sake.

I must never think it is about me. It is for "His Name's sake." His glory is at stake. I have to care more about His reputation than my own! Forgive me, Lord. I can get so introspective when my soul needs restoring. But, He will share His glory with no one. ("I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another." Isaiah 42:8) "Thank You, Lord, that You are willing to use such a flawed vessel as me to bring You glory." The restoration has begun, the next steps on the "paths of righteousness" (asking forgiveness, making things right, trusting Him more) are clear. He has shown the Light of His Word on my path. Psalm 119:105 ("Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.") "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's Name is to be praised." Psalm 113:3

Thank You, Lord, that You restore my soul and lead me in paths of righteousness for Your Name's sake. I love You, Lord.

-- Wendy, [Faith's Firm Foundation](#)

To me ~ I know that my life without HIM is nothing! I also know that because of HIM I have been made righteous and am not worthy of what HE has done for me. I heard this song (by Leeland) one night years ago, and it touched me so deeply! This song is a story of all of us....He made a table and welcomed each one of us! He feeds us with HIS Word, He offers HIS Love, He restores us in HIS Presence, He leads us each and every day and longs to have Fellowship with us!

Video -

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pum11nM5MrU&feature=player_embedded

-- Loren, [The Magoos News](#)

Psalms 23:4

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou [art] with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

I know I mention my friend Sue on my blog a lot. She walked through the valley of the shadow of death this past year, and I feel as though I’ve walked alongside her on her journey.

The first thing I did after choosing this particular verse was to look up a commentary on it. Here is what [Matthew Henry’s commentary](#) says about this particular verse ---

The valley of the shadow of death may denote the most severe and terrible affliction, or dark dispensation of providence, that the psalmist ever could come under. **Between the part of the flock on earth and that which is gone to heaven, death lies like a dark valley that must be passed in going from one to the other.** But even in this there are words which lessen the terror. It is **but the shadow of death**: the shadow

of a serpent will not sting, nor the shadow of a sword kill. **It is a valley, deep indeed, and dark, and miry; but valleys are often fruitful, and so is death itself fruitful of comforts to God's people.** It is a walk through it: they shall not be lost in this valley, but get safe to the mountain on the other side. Death is a king of terrors, but not to the sheep of Christ. When they come to die, God will rebuke the enemy; he will guide them with his rod, and sustain them with his staff. **There is enough in the gospel to comfort the saints when dying, and underneath them are the everlasting arms.** [emphasis mine]

I feel like I'm in a sort of "limbo land" since my friend Sue lost her battle to ovarian cancer and crossed over into the everlasting arms of Jesus. The first phrase that I put in bold in Matthew Henry's commentary above seems to describe just this state. All Christians are in it – it may just seem more prevalent to some than others, depending on current circumstances. It's reassuring to know that I'm not alone in this feeling.

I love what Matthew Henry says about the use of the word "shadow" also. A shadow is not harmful. Yes, sometimes they are scary – think of shadows in a dark alley at night or something – but shadows can't hurt us. We can allow ourselves to get so caught up in the shadows that we lose sight of what the shadow actually represents.

We, as humans, seem to be afraid of death. One of Sue's biggest fears was leaving her children behind; it's one of my biggest concerns as well, when I consider death. However, death can bring about fruit for God's people. I've seen some of those fruits since Sue passed away. God has used the event of her death to work in the hearts of individuals in various ways – whether it be a kind word, a restored relationship, or whatever.

Let's rest in the assurance that death is not a bad or scary thing. What could be more wonderful and exciting than considering an eternity resting in the everlasting arms of our Father God?! And to those of us who have lost loved ones, what a peaceful assurance to know that we will see them again. And what may seem like a very long time to wait for us, is like the blink of an eye to God.

-- Heidi, [Reviews & Reflections](#)

Psalm 23 has to be one of the best known sets of verses in the entire Bible. I don't think there's a funeral where it's not read or quoted as a strong source of comfort for the bereaving family because of its peaceful and serene word pictures the loving kind Shepherd who cares for His sheep~tending them and helping them as only the Good Shepherd can. This Shepherd is unlike any other because He has the power to make the needs of the flock satisfied, to restore and bless abundantly in the green pasture of life~

Verse four speaks to me of STRENGTH in days of disaster and trial. **I WILL FEAR NO EVIL~for HE IS WITH ME...**no matter what may come whether it is the worst of my imagination or a blessing, I can have confidence in the Savior, the Shepherd who is ever present and guiding me. Confidence and security to step out in faith~faith in this Shepherd who never leaves me...Who gives me comfort...a sense of knowing that in the greater scheme of life, ALL is well~

Truely Psalm 23 is well remembered in days of distress and such a source of strength just for today...

-- Cheryl, [Tell'n It](#)

The entire chapter of Psalms 23 is an encouragement but I am concentrating on verse 4. It's one thing to know that the Lord will take care of all of your needs and protect you from evil, but it's a totally different thing to actually live that way – with no fears and no worries. It's human nature to worry about things. To worry about our family, our businesses, and such.

Psalms 23:4 assures us that no matter what path the Lord leads us down, there is no cause for worry or fear. He will be with us and He will comfort us in any situation. This includes our spiritual life, our personal life, our family life, and even our online business life. If you put your total and complete trust in the Lord, then you have no reason for worries or fears and you have more time and energy to focus on things that are more important.

Psalms 23:5

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”

Hmm ...preparing a table in front of my enemies. Do I really have enemies?

Well, if Jesus is the Lord of my life ***...I will have enemies.***

You see, as I submit to His leading He transforms me from the inside out. That means change. And frankly, not everyone is happy with change. Inevitably, there will be conflict.

I may not have people fighting against me with physical weapons but ***...words can be hurtful.***

It's so important for me to spend time alone with the Lord daily as I feast at His table of love.

Table preparation takes time and can't be rushed.



(Photo Credit: Bountiful Magazine)

In my imagination I'm seated at a lovely table setting like this one with the sound of the waves and the smell of salt air.

But it's His Word that I feast on daily. Reading, speaking and praying His Word.

As I come before the Lord each morning, I receive His fresh anointing for that day. I remember who I belong to and that He is the Good Shepherd who cares for me. His Holy Spirit is overflowing as I allow Him to work in me and through me. I become saturated in His love and that love **...overflows to others.**



(Photo Credit: Away Network)

My salvation cannot be taken away. I belong to Him forever.

Thank you Jesus!

-- Debbie, [Heart Choices](#)

Blessings showered from God are forthcoming forever. I am able to see them when I just look up. In this Psalm, we are reminded that we are the sheep of His pasture. He calls us to His rest, to His quiet, to His side. God is the One Who prepares the meal for me, before me. Not in a kitchen elsewhere, but right before my eyes. God feeds me physically, but also cares for my every need. My body, my spirit, my soul are fed by God Himself. I am cared for whether I am alone, with friends, or facing enemies. I am not to be afraid. God is with me. He leaves me not. He anoints my head with the oil of gladness. I am blessed by the One and Only God. As the woman anointed Jesus, God is thankful that I am with Him. He honors me as His child. I am one of His sheep.

I am provided for abundantly no matter the circumstances, no matter the day. God, You know me and You desire to care for me. I just am to look to You and know that You are God. You are my All in all, my Everything. Thank You, Abba Father. You bless me abundantly. I am so beautifully filled to my very top. Thank You for loving me. I am Yours always. And thank You for teaching me, LORD. I am so blessed, feeling beautiful on the inside because of You. Amen.

-- Linda, [Being Woven](#)

I love this verse. I understand it well. I have had the misfortune of dealing with an enemy or an attack of the enemy, a time or two in my lifetime. Perhaps you have as well. So did Jesus and the Disciples. As followers of Christ we should expect to experience the same persecution that our Lord did. In fact we are told to expect it. In Matthew 10:22 the Lord tells us “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” As a matter of fact, we all have a mutual enemy in Satan who seeks to steal, kill and destroy us. John 10:10.

Yes. Just as abundance, peace, grace and so many other wonderful blessings are bestowed upon us as believers, we also have to deal with the persecution that also comes with being a believer. It never feels good to experience it. And while we tend to be, it isn’t even something we should be surprised about. After all, we have been warned.

However, even greater than being warned God has reminded us that no matter what we are going through He is there. When times are hard and it feels like the world is falling in around us; He is there. When others bear false witness against us; He is there. When Satan brings sickness upon us; He is there. Through all of the attacks of the enemy no matter how they may come, He is there. We are never alone in our pain and suffering. God is always there to comfort and protect us from our enemies. Satan seeks to destroy us. To sift us like wheat. But God said no.

That’s why I love this verse the way that I do because it perfectly illustrates this.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies”

Yes! Even though the enemy is camped out on every side God is present and providing for us in our most darkest hour, blessing us with His perfect peace and comfort. Satan and his minions try to rob us of all the blessings and comforts that God has laid before us as believers. He whispers evil things into our ears to strike fear in our hearts. But, when we make up our minds to keep close to God by staying in prayer, reading His Word daily, and keeping our thoughts on the Lord, and not on the schemes of the enemy, we stay in perfect peace. Right before my very eyes, with evil all around me, God lays before me a feast of His blessings, that I may partake of His peace and blessings, and be made full of His love and comfort.

“Thou anointest my head with oil”

God fills us daily with the Holy Spirit to comfort us and give us the strength we need as we pray for His help daily. Through the Holy Spirit “the comforter” God gives us the grace we need not only to survive, but withstand the attacks and temptations of the enemy. I am a marked woman. God has touched me and marked me as His child through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Because of this there is no one who can rob me of all that God has for me. My God protects me always.

“My cup runneth over”

God gives us so much that it’s running over! We can’t even contain all of His blessings for us. Sometimes we are so busy worrying about what we don’t have or listening to the lies the enemy uses to keep us discontent and miserable, that we forget all that God has already given us and continues to give us every single day. We are so blessed! So much so that we can’t even fully comprehend it or contain it. It’s so beautiful and amazing.

Job 14:1 tells us that “Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.”

That is very true. Yet in the mist of those few and troublesome days stands our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who died so that we might live. The One who defeated the enemy so that we have through Him, the victory.

God bless you,

Haneefah Turner

As a special bonus to my readers I am adding a beautiful rendition of Psalm 23 for you to listen to at the end of this post. It is by Christian Harpist Jeff Majors. The song is simply titled "Psalm 23." This version is from his album Sacred .I love it. I think that you will too.

Video -

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pD_MnCl2NtU&feature=player_embedded

-- Haneefah, [Reflections of a Queen](#)

Psalms 23:6

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

The Word of Faith teachers have taken the first half of this verse to mean that every day will be filled with happiness. One of the most popular books today is *Your Best Life Now* by Joel Osteen. On page 5 he says, "God wants this to be the best time of your life." But is that true? Is that really what God has said in His Word?

Millions of Christians around the world today are persecuted and even killed for the faith. Is *this* their best life? Meeting in secret? Fearing for their lives and the lives of their children? Praying that someone will smuggle a Bible? Seeing pastors, brothers and sisters in Christ arrested, beaten or killed for the faith? No, *this* is not their best life.

The Apostle Peter wrote the following to the persecuted church:

"In this[the eternal salvation yet to come] you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

-Peter 1:6-7

James 1:2-4 says this:

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

God's goodness and mercy are evident in our lives even in the toughest of times. The trials that come our way, even as believers who are free, refine us and conform us to the image of Christ, preparing us to be presented blameless before Him (Jude 24). We see these truths in Romans 8:

*28 And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nothing that comes our way in this life can separate us from the love of Christ. His mercy and goodness *will* follow us all the days of our lives.

This brings us to the second part of the verse:

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Jesus says in **John 14:1-3**:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

So who will dwell in the house of the Lord? The redeemed of Christ. All believers from all eternity. This Psalm was written by King David. He will

be there. Jesus was addressing His disciples in John 14. They will be there. But the promises of God are only for believers. All paths *do not* lead to God.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

-John 14:6

For those who have not turned to Christ for salvation, their best life truly is now. The future only holds eternal separation from God and judgment for those who do not believe.

But dear sisters, if you have put your trust in Christ as the only way to salvation, your best life is yet to come--no matter what. He who redeemed you by His blood will keep you until the end.

And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

- John 6:40

We can fully trust in the promises of God. His goodness and mercy WILL follow us all the days of our lives, and we WILL dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Unsure if you're saved? Please watch this short video.

Video -

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gb8iHKhSXfk&feature=player_embedded

-- Jessica, [By Grace Alone](#)

Each of the words in this verse are powerful:

SURELY: For sure

GOODNESS: Good, not bad, not evil

MERCY: Undeserved favor, kindness

SHALL FOLLOW ME: Pursue me

ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE: Past, present, future; 24/7; through joy or deep sorrow

I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD: Live in the presence of the Lord here on earth (knowing He is always with us) and ultimately live in Heaven.

FOREVER: Always, non-stop, eternally, without end

As I consider God's great goodness and undeserved mercy I think of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

God's goodness and mercy is shown by His love when God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to forgive us of our sins and give us eternal life. Anyone believing in Him, as the scripture declares, will receive eternal life.

This verse is assurance of the future - it is going to be unbelievably great.....a joyous feast.....the future belongs to the children of God.

-- Kelly, [My Faithful Living](#)

As I ponder this passage, I am drawn to the last verse. What a promise from God....that goodness and love will be with me always, even in the tough times, the down times and of course the times of praise and celebration and when my life here on earth is done, I will dwell with Him....FOREVER!! This promise reminds me of the promise to Noah and the symbol of the rainbow. I took this picture from my backyard patio door which overlooks a large park. The rainbow always makes me think of the love of God and all His promises.



-- Kerri, [Mommy 4 Him](http://www.mommy4him.blogspot.com)

The Contributors

Rhonda White, [Her Christian Home](#)

Julie, [The Surrendered Scribe](#)

April, [ElCloud Homeschool](#)

Kimberly, [Until the Day Dawn](#)

Lois, [Lois Graham](#)

Sapphire, [Walking on Water](#)

HisFireFly, [Flickers of a Faithful FireFly](#)

Judith, [A Homemaker Speaks](#)

Tracey, [Tcsoko's Blog](#)

Isabelle, [Life at Oak Grove](#)

Amy, [My Purpose In Him](#)

Dawn, [The Huffmaster Family](#)

Nancy, [Nancy Lewis](#)

Tishia Lee, [Adventures of a Single WAHM](#)

Sandy, [The Tablet of My Heart](#)

Wendy, [Faith's Firm Foundation](#)

Loren, [The Magoos News](#)

Heidi, [Reviews & Reflections](#)

Cheryl, [Tell'n It](#)

Courtney, [Courtney Speaks](#)

Debbie, [Heart Choices](#)

Linda, [Being Woven](#)

Haneefah, [Reflections of a Queen](#)

Jessica, [By Grace Alone](#)

Kelly, [My Faithful Living](#)

Kerri, [Mommy 4 Him](#)