

Sing a New Song: Strength

Psalm 23

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Psalm 23:1 - A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even 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. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. Connecting to the _____ of strength

_____ rather than _____: The Living Lord is the greatest Shepherd, I shall not find myself empty, nor lacking what is needed at the moment it is needed. Psalm 23:1 (JOT)

_____ rest: He has given me a place to live where I am strengthened and the nourishing water of restful restoration flows through my soul. Psalm 23:2 (JOT)

2. _____ for the substance of God's strength

_____ to return: The Lord convicts my soul to return to him and he guides me to the path of righteousness and justice for the purpose of honoring his name! Psalm 23:3 (JOT)

_____ the relationship: As I go in the midst of the shadow of death, I shall not fear evil because you are with me! The shepherd's rod

of your holy Word will examine me, protect me, and correct me. The staff of your Holy Spirit comfort me and encourage me to follow you. Psalm 23:4 (JOT)

_____ the focus: You prepare a table for me smack in the middle of oppressive afflictions and trouble! Your presence dresses my wounds in the battle and brings a healing hope that cannot be denied. I am drunk with your goodness to me! Psalm 23:5 (JOT)

3. _____ to the Good Shepherd

Doggedly _____: The grace of this Shepherd is on your trail! it will not give up because it will hunt you down, like the hound dog of heaven because God wants you to live with him forever! Psalm 23:6 (JOT)

The Good _____: A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life--life in all its fullness. ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. John 10:10-11 (NCV)

Spiritual Action Step:

How is the Good Shepherd trying to lead you to a place of abundant life? Are you letting the thief steal and destroy your joy, hope, and peace? Jesus said: ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. (John 10:9, NIV) Accept Jesus into your heart by acknowledging your separation from God. Seek to change the direction of your life. Ask Jesus to be your Shepherd to guide you to the power of his strength for you. This week read, Psalm 23 and John 10 to allow the Holy Spirit to restore and refresh your heart and soul!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; NCV: New Century Version.