

## **“I Shall Not Want”**

No. 204

### **Introduction.**

I. Years ago **David** said. (Psa. 23).

PSA 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

PSA 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

PSA 23:3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

PSA 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

PSA 23:5 Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

PSA 23:6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

A. This psalm occupies only a small space in the Bible, but what a great place it holds in human hearts and minds! It has doubtless strengthened and comforted more people than any other portion of the scriptures.

B. **David exclaims** in this marvelous, timeless psalm, “I shall not want.”

1. The reason he would never want is clearly set forth in this psalm.

2. He would never want because he said, “Jehovah is my shepherd.”

II. **Our relationship to Jehovah is like that of sheep to their shepherd.** In the view of the fact Jehovah is our shepherd, we can confidently and joyfully exclaim, “I shall not want.”

I. **Food And Drink** - I shall not want for food and drink.

A. **“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters.”**

B. Just as a good shepherd provides for the physical needs of his sheep, Jehovah provides for the needs of his sheep. (Psa. 37:25; Matt. 6:25, 26, 30-33; Phil. 4:19).

II. **Forgiveness** - I shall not want for forgiveness.

A. **“He restoreth my soul.”**

B. As human beings we are weak and very fallible. We often commit hideous, despicable, loathsome sins.

1. **God hates this sins, but not us.**

2. He loves us and gave His precious Son to die for us.

3. He is ready and willing to forgive us if we repent. (Isa. 1:18; Heb. 8:12; 1 Jn. 1:9).

C. **David sinned grievously.** He committed adultery with Bathsheba. He had her husband killed.

1. God sent His prophet to say, “Thou art the man.”

2. In the 51<sup>st</sup> psalm David poured out his soul in penitence and sorrow and prayer. He cried out,

**1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. 4 Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, And done what is evil in Thy sight, So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, And blameless when Thou dost judge. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. 6 Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom. 7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. 9 Hide Thy face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Thy presence, And do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit.**

2. **God heard the cry of David.** He forgave David, so once again David could sing with fervor and joy, “He restoreth my soul.” And what thrills my heart and fills it with unspeakable exhilaration is the fact that what God did for David He will do for you and me and for every person who seeks His forgiveness.

III. **Guidance** - I shall not want for guidance.

A. **“He guideth me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”**

B. Man certainly need guidance. (Jere. 10:23). Yes, we need God to guide us in **paths of righteousness.**

1. He does this through the **shining, exemplary life of His Son.** He sent His Son into the world to give us a perfect example to follow. If we follow in the steps of God’s perfect, sinless Son, we shall never do evil.

2. God guides us **through His word.** (Psa. 119:105; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

3. God guides us **through prayer.** (Jas. 1:5).

IV. **Companionship** - I shall not want for companionship.

A. **“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me.”**

B. How comforting are the words “for thou art with me.”

1. Others may speak evil of us. Others may disappoint us and forsake us when we need them the most, but not God. He is always with us - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, all the days of our lives.

2. **God** said. (Heb. 13:5).

V. **Comfort** - I shall not want for comfort.

A. **“Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”**

B. Regardless of how strong or how wealthy or how educated we might be, there are times when we need comfort. There are times we are filled with grief and sorrow.

1. God promises to **comfort us**. (Psa. 55:22; 147:3; 1 Pet. 5:7).

2. God is so comforting that Paul calls Him “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.” (2 Cor. 1:3).

3. Listen to God’s comforting words given through the pen of Paul. (Rom. 8:28-39).

**28 And we know that God causes all things to 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 become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 ¶ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?:36 Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.**

4. Oh, how blessed we are to be blessed with the presence and power and strength of God and His Son! We “overwhelmingly conquer” through them.

VI. **Not Want For Anything In Life** - I shall not want for anything in this life.

A. **“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil. My cup runneth over. Surety goodness and lovingkindness shall follow me all the days of my life.”**

B. **What is your need?** Food? Clothing? Shelter? Friends? Peace? Hope? Love?

1. God provides all these needs.

2. We enjoy God’s rich, bountiful blessings now in this life.

VII. **Not Want For Anything In Eternity** - I shall not want for anything in eternity.

A. **“And I will dwell in the house of Jehovah forever.”**

B. God has prepared us a home in heaven.

1. It is a place where there will be no hunger, or thirst, or sorrow, or loneliness, or pain, or death. There will be nothing there to make us unhappy, and everything to make us happy.

2. Heaven is a perfect place and it shall last forever. (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 22:5).

### **Conclusion.**

I. Beloved, the statement “Jehovah is my shepherd; I shall not want” is indeed wonderful and full of comfort.

A. The statement is also **intensely personal**. The psalmist is not claiming Jehovah as the shepherd of a friend or of some other person. He is claiming Him personally - “Jehovah is my shepherd.”

B. **The statement is also in the present tense.**

1. There are those who say, “Jehovah was my shepherd in a **wonderful yesterday**.”

2. There are those who promise that He will be their shepherd in **some indefinite tomorrow**.

3. The psalmist dares to make the claims he makes because **Jehovah is his shepherd now**.

II **Is He yours today?** Are you trusting Him? Are you following His will?

A. The only way the blessings of this psalm will be yours today is to make Jehovah your shepherd today.

B. Submit to the Father through His Son and become a part of the blessed fold of God through faith and baptism..  
Come now as we sing.

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