

## **“I Shall Not Want”**

### Part 1

#### **Introduction.**

1. Years ago **David** said. (Psa. 23:1-6).

Psa. 23:1 Jehovah is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psa 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still [calm]waters.

Psa 23:3 He restoreth my soul: He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Psa 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 [walking stick], they comfort me. God is with us even in the darkest of times.

Psa 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup runneth over.

Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness shall follow me all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of Jehovah for ever. **ASV**

- “Jehovah” is translated as “LORD” in most translations.
- This was the name God chose to be known by in Old Testament. (Exod. 6:2-3).

Exod. 6:2 God spoke further to Moses and said to him, “I am the LORD;

Exod. 6:3 and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them.

- It come from four Hebrew consonants “YHWH.”
- This was God’s personal name. Most scholars believe it was pronounced YHWH” [Yahveh].
- Though used hundreds of times before the burning bush, it was defined there. It means “the existing One.”
- This inspirational psalm occupies only a small space in the Bible, but what a great place it holds in human hearts and minds!
- It has comforted and blessed countless lives.

b. It has doubtless strengthened and comforted more people than any other portion of the scriptures.

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

- **It was not because of David’s physical appearance, fame, wealth, education, war record.**

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.”

d. David knew Jehovah was not exclusively His Shepherd, but He was very close to God and viewed God as his Shepherd who always looked out for his good. See Ps. 84:11

e. God is our Shepherd!

**Note:**

- In Israel, as in other ancient societies, a shepherd's work was often considered among the lowest of all works. It is dirty work and often a thankless work.
- Shepherds today need to recognize this fact. They are not a mere board of directors.
- If a family needed a shepherd, it would usually be the youngest son like David who got the unpleasant, unwanted assignment.
- The Great God of the universe has stooped to this position just to take care of you and me.
- God sent His beloved Son into the world to save and bless and oversee man.

**2. Our relationship to Jehovah is like that of sheep to their shepherd.**

- a. Sheep are dumb and helpless and need direction from the shepherd.
- b. In view of the fact Jehovah is our Shepherd, we can confidently and joyfully exclaim, "I shall not want."
- c. This lesson will expand on the meaning of the words "I shall not want."

**Note:**

1. In the Gospels Jesus speaks of Himself as "the good Shepherd." (Jn. 10:11, 14).
2. The New Testament also speaks of Jesus as our Shepherd in the epistles. (Heb.13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:4; Rev. 7:17).

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

1 Pet. 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

1 Pet.5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Rev.7:17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

**Food And Drink**

1. We shall not want for food and drink. (Matt. 6:25,26).

Matt.6:25"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Matt.6:26 Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly

Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

2. **“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still [quiet] waters.”**

- a. “Green pastures” - A good shepherd made sure his sheep had green pastures for food and for rest. They lie down when they are completely satisfied.
  - b. “Still waters” - Sheep do not lie down easily. They are timid and will not lie down if they are afraid of turbulent waters or other threatening things.
3. 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, 31, 33; Phil. 4:19).

### **Forgiveness**

1. We shall not want for forgiveness.

- We all need forgiveness. (Isa. 6:5; Rom. 3:10, 23).
  - We cannot earn or merit it nor can we buy it.
- a. **“He restoreth my soul.”** NIV “he refreshes my soul.”
    - 1) The Hebrew word “shoob” means “to return, turn back.”
    - 2) He leads men to repentance by His loving and forgiving nature.
  - b. As human beings we are weak and very fallible and sinful.
  - c. We often commit hideous, despicable, loathsome sins!
  - d. We often find ourselves very ashamed and remorseful, but there is hope!

2. **God hates our sins, but not us!**

- a. He loves us and gave His precious Son to die for us. (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
- b. He is ready and willing to forgive us if we repent. (Isa. 1:18; Heb. 8:12; 1 Jn. 1:9).

Isa. 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”

Heb. 8:12 “FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.”

- It is impossible for the Omniscient God to forget our sins.
- It means God will not hold them against us. It is like they never happened.

1 Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The word “all” does not mean “some” or “most,” but it means “all, every one.”

### 3. David sinned grievously.

- a. He committed adultery with Bathsheba, and arranged for her husband Uriah to be killed in an attempt to cover his sin.
  - 1) It is not likely that all were ignorant of his sin, but one can be sure that the all-seeing and all-knowing God was fully aware of David's sinful actions. (Prov. 15:3).
  - The messengers who brought her to David knew. (2 Sam. 11:3-4).
  - Others servants very likely knew.
  - 2) There is no evidence that Bathsheba was forced to commit adultery or this was a one night affair.
  - 3) She may have known David could see her bathing from "the roof of the palace." (2 Sam. 11:2).
  - (4) There is no evidence this was the first time David walked on the roof and others were unaware of this habit.
  - 5) Furthermore, her sin [not rape] was fully known by the all-seeing and all-knowing God.
- b. God sent His prophet Nathan to David to say, "Thou art the man." You are the guilty one.
- c. In the 51<sup>st</sup> psalm David poured out his soul in penitence and sorrow and prayer. (Ps. 51:1-4).

Psa. 51:1 **Have mercy upon me, O God**, according to thy lovingkindness: According to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Lust, adultery, murder, lying, pride and a host of other sins.

Psa. 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

Psa. 51:3 For I know my transgressions; And my sin is ever before me.

Psa. 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, And done that which is evil in thy sight; That thou mayest be justified when thou judgest. "thee only" - Primarily viewed his action as an action against God.

- 1) In this psalm he cried out, "Have mercy upon me, O God."
  - 2) He knew he had sinned and did not deserve mercy. Nothing he had done or could do merited mercy. See 1 Sam. 18:7.
  - 3) He deserved both physical death by stoning (Lev. 20:10) and spiritual death [condemnation is hell.]
  - 4) The fact he had killed Goliath and was king of Israel did not mean God overlooked his sins.
  - 5) He could not mock God. (Gal. 6:7-8).
- d. **But God did forgive him and revived his heart!**
- e. So he could sing with fervor and sincerity, "He restoreth my soul."
    - 1) The word "soul" is from the Hebrew "nephesh" that can mean "life" or the immortal part of man.
    - 2) The Hebrew word "nephesh" corresponds to the Greek "psuche" translated "soul" or "life."

- 3) It likely has both meanings in this psalm.
- 4) David desperately wanted to be “happy” [in right relationship with God].
- 5) He desperately wanted his immortal soul to be right with God!
- f. And what thrills my heart and fills it with unspeakable exhilaration is the fact that what God did for David He will do for me and for every person who seeks His forgiveness through repentance and obedience to His will.
- g. God wants all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9), but He will not force anyone to be saved.
- h. The prodigal son had to return home to the Father and confess his sins.

## Guidance

### Part 2

1. We shall not want for guidance.

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

b. Man certainly needs the guidance of our God. (Jere. 10:23; Isa. 55:8-9).

Jere. 10:23 “I know, O LORD, that a man’s way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.”

Isa. 55:8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.

Isa. 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

c. Yes, God guides us in **paths of righteousness**. (Prov. 3:6)

Prov. 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

2. He does this through the shining, exemplary life of His Son.

a. He sent His Son into the world to give us a perfect example to follow.

b. If we follow in the steps of God’s perfect, sinless Son, we shall be close to God.

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

Psa. 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 Tim. 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

4. God also guides us by providing **wisdom through prayer**. (Jas. 1:5).

Jas. 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach,

and it will be given to him.

5. God never tempts us to do evil (1 Cor. 10:13), but He helps us overcome temptations. (Jas. 4:7,8).

1 Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Jas. 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Jas. 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

### Companionship

1. We shall not want for companionship.

a. Loneliness is common in our world.

b. We need the confidence, the realization we are never alone. (Matt. 28:20).

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

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

a. Others may speak evil of us and seek to harm us.

b. Others may disappoint us and forsake us when we need them the most, but not God!

c. **God is always with us** - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, all the days of our lives. (Ps. 46:1-3).

Psa. 46:1 **God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.**

Psa. 46:2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;

Psa. 46:3 Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah.

4. **Jesus** said, “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: **and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world** [age]. (Matt. 28:20).

a. The Greek “aion” means “age, world.”

b. It is used here to mean “forever,” that is, in this world and the world to come.

5. **God** said, “I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee.” (Heb. 13:5b).

a. We may fail ourselves, and others may fail us.

b. **God will never fail us!** He is always ready to bless us, guide us, strengthen us, forgive us!

### Comfort

1. We shall not want for comfort - God is always ready to comfort us.

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

- a. “rod” - Heb. **“shay bet”** means “rod, staff, club.”
- b. “Staff” - Heb. **“mish ay naw”** meaning “support of every kind.”

3. Regardless of how strong or how wealthy or how educated we might be, there are times when we need God’s comfort.

- a. Others can certainly provide comfort for us. (1 Thess. 4:18).

1 Thess. 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- b. None can provide comfort like God. (2 Cor. 1:3-4).

2 Cor. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,  
2 Cor. 1:4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

4. There are times we are filled with grief and sorrow - death of love ones, declining health, disappointments of all kinds.

- a. God promises to **comfort us**. (Psa. 55:22; 147:3; 1 Pet. 5:7).
- b. God is so comforting that Paul calls Him “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.” (2 Cor. 1:3).
- c. 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 those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, 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 over 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 will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**36 Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR 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, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Not Want For Anything In Life

1. **“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.”**
2. We shall not want for anything in this life.
3. **What is your need?** Food? Clothing? Shelter? Friends? Peace? Hope? Love? Forgiveness?
  - a. God provides all these needs (Phil. 4:19), but not without work on our part. (Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10).
  - b. We enjoy God’s rich, bountiful blessings now in this life.

## Not Want For Anything In Eternity

1. We shall not want for anything in eternity. This life is like a vapor compared to eternity.
2. **“And I will dwell in the house of Jehovah forever.”**
  - a. God has prepared us a home in heaven. (Jn. 14:1-3).
  - b. It is a place where there will be no hunger, or thirst, or sorrow, or loneliness, or pain, or death. (Rev. 21:4). See also Rev. 14:13.
  - c. There will be nothing there to make us unhappy, and everything to make us happy.
3. Heaven is a perfect place and it shall last forever. (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 22:5).

Matt. 25:46 “These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Rev. 22:5 And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

## Conclusion.

1. Beloved, the statement “Jehovah is my shepherd; I shall not want” is indeed wonderful and full of comfort.
2. The statement is also **intensely personal**.
  - a. It is not claiming Jehovah as the shepherd of a friend or of some other person
  - b. It is claiming Him personally - “Jehovah is my shepherd.”
  - He is my Shepherd and your Shepherd.
  - He wants to be the Shepherd of all.
3. **The statement is also in the present tense.**
  - a. There are those who say, “Jehovah was my shepherd in a wonderful yesterday.”
  - b. There are those who promise that He will be their shepherd in some indefinite tomorrow.



- c. The psalmist dares to make the claims he makes because Jehovah is his Shepherd now.
4. I pray Jehovah is already our Shepherd today!
- a. It is vital that we allow Him to be our Shepherd!
  - b. Unlike earthly shepherds, He will not force us to be in submission to Him.
5. I pray that Jesus who is also called “Shepherd” will be our Shepherd always. See Jn. 10:11, 14; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25.

Jn. 10:11 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

Jn.10:14 “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,”

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

1 Pet. 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

6. I pray that **all of us are daily trusting Him and daily following Him.**

- a. Merely calling Jesus Lord or Shepherd is not sufficient. (Lk. 6:46).
- b. We must daily take up our cross and follow Him. (Lk. 9:23).

Lk. 9:23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

- c. We show our love by trusting obedience. (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3).

7. Let all of us make Jehovah our Shepherd today!

8. Let us completely submit to the Good, the Great Shepherd!

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