# **The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want**

# **Psalm 23:1**

Psalm 23 is David's testimony of the faithfulness of God to his soul. He writes it when he is old and looking back upon a life shepherded by his God. He can testify after years of experience, “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

The LORD had chosen David to be His own. The LORD had given Himself to be David's substitute. He had purchased him and reconciled him to the Father in heaven.

The LORD had sought out David and found him even when David had not been seeking him. The LORD had come to David, where he was, and saved him, as he was - a sinner! The LORD had cared for him all his life; He had watched over him; and He had preserved him all the days of his life.

Because the LORD had proved Himself faithful, David could say, “I shall not want.”

The phrase “I shall not want” is the main theme of this Psalm and it is derived from the fact that the LORD had committed Himself to be David's shepherd.

When David said, “I shall not want” he was saying that God had provided and would provide all he needed in every area of his life at all times.

In the words, “I shall not want” David teaches us that everything that could be proper and good - whether temporal or spiritual - whether pertaining to the body or to the soul - whether having reference to time or to eternity - falls under the control of our Shepherd and will be supplied by Him. Nothing of which our God and our good Shepherd has determined to be beneficial for our lives will fail to come into our life!

In **Psalm 34:9-10**, David is quoted as saying, “O fear the LORD, ye his saints: **for there is no want to them that fear him**. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: **but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.**”

**First: David could make the statement – I shall not want - because he had confidence in the LORD's faithfulness to His own word:**

**A. He had confidence in God’s word for divine acceptance** –

**Psalm 5:12** – “For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; **with favour** (acceptance) wilt thou compass him as with a shield.”

**Ephesians 1:6** – “… **he hath made us accepted in the beloved**.”

**B.** **He had confidence in God’s word regarding justification and righteousness**

**Psalm 32:1** – “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”

**Romans 4:6-8** – “(6) Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, (7) Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (8) Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”

**C. He had confidence in God’s word regarding his relationship as a child of God –**

**Psalm 103:10-13** – “(10) He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. (11) For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. (12) As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (13) Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.”

**D. He had confidence in God’s word regarding the promise of God’s grace to persevere to the end –**

**Psalm 103:17** – “But **the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting** upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children”

**Psalm 100:5** – “For the LORD is good; **his mercy is everlasting**; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

**Philippians 1: 6 and 2:13** – “… that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ … (2:13) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

**E. He had confidence in God’s word regarding the promise of divine protection –**

**Psalm 5:12** – “For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; **with favour (grace and acceptance) wilt thou compass him as with a shield**.”

**Psalm 32:10** – “… he that trusteth in the LORD, **mercy shall compass him about**.”

**Isaiah 41:10** – “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

**F. He had confidence in God’s word regarding the promise of spiritual refreshment -**

**Psalms 23:2** – “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”

**Psalm 36:8** – “**They shall be abundantly satisfied** … thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.”

**Psalm 65:4** – “Blessed is the man whom thou choosest … **we shall be satisfied** …”

**Psalm 81:16** – “He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should **I have satisfied thee**.”

**G. He had confidence in God’s word regarding the promise of spiritual restoration –**

**Psalms 23: 3** – “He **restoreth** my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”

**Psalm 51:10-12** – “(10) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and **renew** a right spirit within me. (11) Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. (12) **Restore** unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”

**H. He had confidence in God’s word regarding the promise of spiritual comfort –**

**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.”

**Psalm 119:76** – “Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.”

**Note**: David had prayed for comfort from God based upon His word and God had comforted him throughout his life. In times of trial – sickness – failure – prosperity – need – difficulty – in times of repentance – in times of faith – throughout his walk with God – God had comforted him….

**I.** **He had confidence in God’s word regarding facing his enemies –**

**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.”

**Confidence to pray according to God’s promises**: **Psalm 13:2-4** – “(2) How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? (3) Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; (4) Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.”

**Psalm 64:1** – “Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy.”

**Confidence to proclaim because of God’s providence: Psalm 18:17** –“He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.”

**Confidence to praise provision: Psalm 126:1-3 –** “(1) When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. (2) Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. (3) The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.”

**Psalm 41:11** – “By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me.”

**J. He had confidence in God’s word regarding facing eternity –**

**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.”

**Psalm 73:24-26** – “(24) Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. (25) Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. (26) My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.”

**Psalm 17:15** – “As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”