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

# **Psalm 23:1**

**Review**: 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 that was needful for him in every area of his life at all times.

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.”

**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.”

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

**Psalm 103:13** – “(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 persevering 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”

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

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

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

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

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

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

**H. He had confidence in God’s word regarding 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**.”

**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.”

**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.”

All these things and much more are true for the child of God. But, sometimes the child of God does not feel like that all his needs have been met by his Shepherd Saviour.

**What about those times?**

In addition, many times we not only do not feel like all our needs have been met by our Shepherd but the reality is - we are not seeing the promises of God fulfilled in our life.

**Second: Question: What about the times I do not feel God has provided that which I have lacked? Is the promise of Psalm 23:1 still true?**

**Answer: God's greatest interest in us is our sanctification** – our holiness and our preparation for dwelling in heaven with Him. Everything He brings into our life is designed to accomplish that one great end. Nothing takes precedent over our being conformed in the image of his Son, Jesus Christ!

When David spoke the words, “I shall not want” he was speaking of God’s faithfulness in providing everything for him. **David would lack nothing that God determined was good and profitable for His servant**.

**What does the Word of God say?**

**1. I shall not lack for all that is necessary to sustain my life unless God determines that my necessities are not necessary at that moment.**

**II Corinthians 12:7-10** – “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **Therefore I take pleasure in** infirmities, in reproaches, **in necessities,** in persecutions, in distresses **for Christ's sake**: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

**Note**: Some necessities may be provided in abundance while others may be provided as the need arises.

**Elijah** learned that the LORD was his Shepherd and he would not lack while eating one meal at a time from the hand of God's faithful provision at the bottom of a barrel. **See I Kings 17:9-17.**

**David** knew the truth of this while he lived in the wilderness with little and everyday found himself fleeing for his life from Saul. He also learned this while in the king's palace with an abundance of store.

2. When necessary and good - God will bring sickness into our life – when necessary and good He will also bring healing.

**Psalm 31:15** – “My times are in thy hand …”

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-3** – “(1) To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: (2) A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; (3) A time to kill, and **a time to heal** …”

**Note**: If there is a time for healing – then there must have been a time for sickness!

3. When it is necessary and good God will bring trials into our life -- when necessary and good he will free us from those trials

I Peter 1:3-7 -- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope … To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God … Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations …”

Joseph in Pharaoh’s prison with the promises of God upon his heart – See Psalm 105:16-19 – suffering because he did not see the promises of God fulfilled in his life.

Daniel in the lion’s den - See Daniel 6:16-23 – suffering because he served his God faithfully.

## Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail – Acts 16:22-24 – suffering for their efforts to spread the gospel.

4. When necessary and good God will allow us to be afflicted -- when necessary and good he will free us from those afflictions.

**Psalm 34:19** – “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: **BUT** the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”

**5. When it pleases our God He will grant unto us many open doors for ministry and with those open doors He will also provide us with many adversaries.**

**I Corinthians 16:9** – “For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, **AND** there are many adversaries.”

1. **I shall not want** for sorrow in the night nor shall I lack joy in the morning.

**Psalm 30:5** - “… weeping may endure for a night, **BUT** joy cometh in the morning.”

**7. I shall not want** for times when my soul feels dry and cold - nor will I lack the promise of God that there will be “… rivers of water in a dry place …” (**Isaiah 32:2**)

**8. I shall not lack** weapons formed against me nor will I lack the promise of God that no weapon formed against me shall prosper!

**Isaiah 54:17** – “**No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper**; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.”

**9. I shall not lack** for enemies nor shall I lack the promise of my God that: “A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.” (**Psalm 91:7)**

**10. I shall not lack** wisdom during times of confusion for He gives it liberally and does not rebuke me when I ask Him for it.

**James 1:5** – “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

**11. I shall not lack** for grace in times of need because He is full of grace and freely bestows more grace upon me.

**II Corinthians 9:8** – “And God is able to make **all grace abound** toward you; that ye, always **having all sufficiency in all things**, may **abound to every good work**:”

**12. I shall not lack** for accusers before the throne of grace nor shall I lack an Advocate to stand for me before my father with five bleeding wounds that plead for mercy moment by moment.

**I John 2:1** – “… if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”

Arise My Soul – by Charles Wesley

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears:
Before the throne my surety stands … Before the throne my surety stands
**My name is written on His hands**.

**Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:**
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry … “Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;
**He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear:**
With confidence I now draw nigh … With confidence I now draw nigh,
And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

**13. I shall not lack** times of spiritual dryness but I am assured that I shall be anointed with fresh oil and that the visitations of my God in the night seasons will once again cause the rivers of water to flow.

**Psalm 92:10** – “But my horn shalt thou exalt … I shall be anointed with fresh oil.”

**Psalm 1:3** – “And **he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water**, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

**Psalm 84: 11** – “For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

Many have not believed the words of the psalmist when he said, “I shall not want” because they believe they have lacked something in their life.

Ignorance, discontentment, pride, unthankfulness, and a multitude of other sins cause true Christians to sin in unbelief against the Scriptures that say, “I shall not want”

Our Lord who has created us and saved us knows all our needs and has promised us to provide them all. All he provides for us is exactly what we need.

We shall not lack as long as he has determined to be our Shepherd.