

**He Provides for Me**  
Psalm 23:1-6 (KJV)

What is your favorite Scripture in the Bible? Think about it. Then what is your most memorable Psalm, which you have cherished throughout your life? According to the Bible search website, [BibleGateway](#), in 2019, five of the top 10 most-viewed or searched verse entries were from Psalm 23, making each verse of Psalm 23 one of the most popular passages in the Bible. In 2024, all six of its verses occupied the top six slots in BibleGateway's most-read verses.

Psalm 23 was so well-known that, to be honest, I used to consider it a bit clichéd. However, the longer I have been in ministry, the more each verse of Psalm 23 has come to hold deep meaning in my heart. It has now become my favorite psalm.

Then why Psalm 23?

Psalm 23 beautifully captures the deeply personal and intimate relationship we share with God. It portrays God as a caring shepherd and us as His beloved sheep. [It clearly describes how God provides for us \(Ps 23:1\), gives us rest \(Ps 23:2\), restores our soul \(Ps 23:3\), walks with us \(Ps 23:4\), prepares a table before us \(Ps 23:5\), and finally pursues us even to our end \(Ps 23:6\).](#) They are all pointing us to God's enduring presence through our lives and even in our eternal lives. Finally, Psalm 23 connects us to Jesus Christ, who is the Good Shepherd. Jesus Christ, as the Good Shepherd, has laid down his life for us (John 10:11). That is the reason why Psalm 23 has been dearly loved, cherished, read, and memorized among Christians.

Even in our church, Carleton UMC, we can find pictures related to Psalm 23 everywhere. Let me show you [the pictures](#) that I took in our church building. Please consider the locations within our church where you can find those pictures. We love Psalm 23. Let Psalm 23 speak to our hearts, instill us, stay with us, and move us to appreciate and enjoy our reality as God's well-loved children.

Psalm 23 was written by King David in his old age, reflecting on his life and contemplating God, particularly God's everlasting love and presence throughout his life. So, Psalm 23 is a kind of faith manifesto for King David, proclaiming God's goodness and mercy that extends beyond his life on earth into eternity. Psalm 23 is King David's words of praise for God and his prayer of unwavering faith, confirming God's steadfast love for his life. Thus, Psalm 23 is like his will for all of us as God's beloved sheep.

Today, we read Psalm 23 in the KJV, which is the well-known translation for us when it comes to Psalm 23. Let us read Psalm 23:1 on the screen together. “**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**” (Psalm 23:1 KJV).

### **The Lord Is My Shepherd**

Psalm 23 begins with king David’s confession of faith in God: “**The Lord is my Shepherd.**”

The power of the message of Psalm 23 is from who God is in our lives. It is from God’s identity as our Shepherd. I believe that it is one of the oldest confessions of God’s people about God’s identity. We must understand who God is first to disentangle all the issues and problems that trouble us in our lives. Who is God to you? Can you confess that God is your Shepherd? This confession will help us find ways to be healed, restored, and renewed in our lives. This confession refreshes and energizes us to overcome any challenges and difficulties we face in our lives.

The earliest and most foundational confession of faith in the New Testament church is “**Jesus is the Lord.**” It is a simple yet profound declaration. This confession repeatedly appears throughout the New Testament, including **Luke 2:11, Acts 2:36, Romans 10:9, 1 Corinthians 8:6, 12:3, Philippians 2:11, and Revelation 17:14.** By proclaiming, “Jesus is the Lord”, they distinguished themselves from surrounding cultures and religions. It was not merely a statement of belief but a public declaration of loyalty, faithfulness, and priority to Jesus Christ even in the face of persecution.

Our confession of faith in God affects our lives, our worldview, and our daily decisions. We build our lives upon the rock of our faith. Our knowledge and understanding of God determine the course of our lives. It shapes how we interpret the world, interact with others, and respond to challenges, guiding our values, priorities, and actions.

This confession, “The Lord is my Shepherd”, reveals that we need God, we need His help, and God is ready to help us. Without God, our lives are meaningless and can be easily shattered. Our faith in confession is a strong anchor that stabilizes us amid the drifting waves and turbulent winds of life, grounding our hearts in hope and giving us the courage to persevere, no matter how fierce the storms may rage around us.

“**And they sang a new song [of glorious redemption], saying, ‘Worthy and deserving are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slain (sacrificed), and with Your blood You purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.’**” (Revelation 5:9 Amplified Bible)

### **I Shall Not Want**

God is our ultimate Provider. God never disregards our needs. What is the most urgent need for all humanity? It is the issue of our sin.

In Genesis 22, God tested Abraham's obedience. God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, the son of promise. In their journey to Mountain Moriah, Isaac asked, "**The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**" (Genesis 22:7 NRSVUE). Abraham responded, "**God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.**" (Genesis 22:8 NRSVUE). When they reached a place where Abraham was to offer a sacrifice, he took the knife to kill Isaac. The angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "**Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.**" (Genesis 22:12 NRSVUE). God provided a ram for Abraham, and he sacrificed the ram as a burnt offering on that day. Abraham called the place **Jehovah Jireh**, which means "**the Lord will provide.**"

What is the message of the story? The story is about God's test for his servant, Abraham. From the beginning to the end, the test is about Abraham's faith in God. It is about his faith that God is his Provider. Additionally, the story in Genesis 22 is a precursor to God's provision of His son, Jesus Christ, for all humanity, as He sacrificed him as a burnt offering on the cross.

**"walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."** (Ephesians 5:2 NIV)

**"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"** (Romans 8:32 NIV)

However, to truly experience God's abundant provision, we must respond with action. It is through actively exercising our faith and faithfully engaging in the means of grace that we encounter God's presence and power at work in our lives. That is a consistent and enduring message throughout the Scriptures.

**"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them."** (Psalm 145:18-19 NRSVUE)

**"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."** (James 4:8a NRSVUE)

Please know that God deeply desires for you to experience the fullness of His provision and care in your life, just as He magnificently demonstrated through the gift of His only Son, Jesus Christ. His loving invitation to embrace Him as your Shepherd—guiding, protecting, and sustaining you—is extended warmly and openly to anyone who approaches Him with a sincere heart and commits to walking in His will. In accepting this invitation, you step into a life of peace, purpose, and abundant grace.