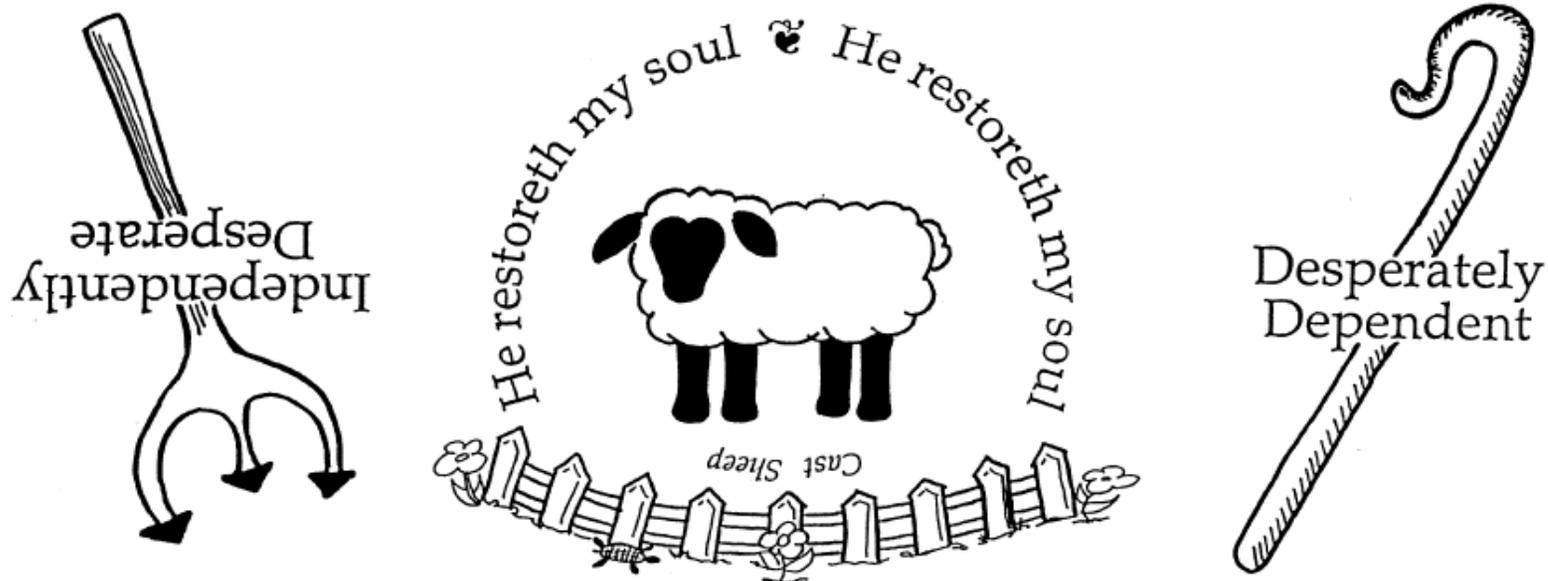


Thou Now • Thou Now

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.*



*He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.  
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.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies.  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23*

Thou Now • Thou Now

# ***Cast Sheep***

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world (1 John 2:16, NASB).

But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (2 Cor. 11:3, NASB).

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me (John 5:30, NIV).

Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil... (Heb. 2:14, NASB).

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled (Mat. 5:6, NIV).

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that (1 Tim. 6:6-8, NIV).

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Mic. 6:8b, NIV).

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace... (Mic. 5:4, 5, NIV).

For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither has He hidden His face from him; but when he cried to Him for help, He heard (Ps. 22:24, NASB).

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long (Ps. 25:1-5, NIV).

# GRACE for the Rest of Your Life

## CAST SHEEP

**DEPENDENT GRACE:** Immobility/Depression; Restoring by the Shepherd Alone; Victimization; Present-tense GRACE

### Immobility/Depression

A “Cast Sheep” is an old English term for a sheep turned over on its back unable to aright itself. A “cast” sheep is a very pathetic sight. Lying on its back, its feet in the air, it flails frantically struggling to stand up, but without success. Sometimes it will bleat for help, but if the shepherd does not arrive on the scene within a reasonably short time, the sheep will die. It is very vulnerable. It is rendered **immobile**. However, it is not only the shepherd who keeps a sharp eye out for cast sheep. Predators know that a cast sheep is easy prey because the sheep’s death is imminent. Sheep in that position will die very quickly as gases build up causing suffocation. The warmer the weather, the quicker they will die (*excerpts from A Shepherd Looks at the 23<sup>d</sup> Psalm by Phillip Keller*).

‘Cast’ may also mean, ‘discouragement’ or ‘despair’ or ‘**depression**’— literally ‘to be low.’ We find David’s cry in Psalm 42:5-6, “*Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance. O my God, my soul is cast down within me.*” Jesus spoke of it in Matthew 9:36, “*And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.*” A discouraged or **depressed** person is laid low and is rendered **immobile**—cast.

Another meaning of ‘cast’ is to render a broken bone **immobile** by placing it in a cast while healing takes place. The break will be restored to its former position—usually even stronger than before the break.

### Restoring by the Shepherd Alone

If a sheep is cast, it needs to be **restored** by a shepherd. The shepherd has to carefully set the sheep aright again, all the while massaging its legs to bring back the circulation. It is a slow but necessary process. If our soul is ‘cast’ down, we need to be **restored**.

Our study will begin with Psalm 23. “*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. **He restoreth my soul:** He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. 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. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*”

We will focus mainly on verse three, “**He restoreth my soul.**” In the Greek Septuagint, that phrase is made up of two words: ‘psyche’ and ‘iatreia.’ ‘Psyche’ meaning ‘**soul**,’ ‘iatreia’ meaning ‘**restore**.’ Now let’s say those two words together very quickly. Psyche-iatreia, psyche-iatreia. What does that sound like? Psychiatry. Psalm 23 is God’s psychiatry. He alone can **restore** our soul!

Look at the center of the card. Now, turn it upside down so you can read the words 'Cast Sheep.' What else can you read? When the sheep is cast, it is *'independently desperate'* as we notice here. It cannot aright itself. It cannot restore itself. The pitchfork represents a situation in which Satan awaits to take advantage of a helpless prey.

Now turn the card right side up. When the sheep is **restored**, what do you now read? — *'Desperately dependent'*— on the shepherd. So *'independently desperate'* is when Satan renders us immobile, but as we are **restored** to the Shepherd of our souls, we become *'desperately dependent.'* The shepherd's crook represents his comfort and restoration, and our desire to stay closer to Him after we have experienced immobility and becoming cast.

In Philip Keller's book, *A Shepherd Looks At The 23rd Psalm*, chapter five suggests three ways that a sheep may become 'cast.' Let's consider these:

1. **Overindulgence**: a sheep will not lie down until its stomach is full. If it has overeaten, lays down and rolls over too far on its back, it becomes cast.
2. **Matted coat**: a sheep wanders away, brushes by brambles and thickets all the while accumulating debris on its fleece. It gets weighed down, then lies down (perhaps too far on its back), and thus becomes cast.
3. **Greener grass**: a sheep chooses a special place for itself, away from what the shepherd has scoped out for it. When it lies down, it does not notice that the taller, greener grass was concealing a concave spot. It unsuspectingly rolls into it and becomes cast.

### Cast Sheep Chart

Let's go over the chart entitled "**Cast Sheep**" (at the end of this lesson). We have just addressed the first column about the cast sheep with its three "A's": ① **appetites** (overindulgence), ② **acquisitions** (matted coat), and ③ **accomplishments** (greener grass). The second column likens us to sheep with the same propensities, "*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh [appetites], the lust of the eyes [acquisitions], and the pride of life [accomplishments] is not from the Father, but is from the world*" (1 Jn. 2:16).

In the third column, we see where Satan staged his first deception in the Garden of Eden with Eve (Genesis 3). "*But I'm afraid lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity [that is in] Christ*" (2 Cor. 11:3 NASB [KJV]). The way he tempted Eve was according to ①the lust of the flesh (appetites), ②the lust of the eyes (acquisitions), and ③the pride of life (accomplishments). Let's review:

1. **Appetites**: appealed to physical appetite (the fruit looked good to eat)
2. **Acquisitions**: appealed to personal gain (knowledge of good and evil)
3. **Accomplishments**: appealed to power, glory, ambition, promotion, self-seeking ("You will be like God.") See Genesis 3:5.

Eve fell for the argument (was deceived), gave to Adam and they both fell into sin. See Genesis 3:6.

Look at the fourth column: When Christ came to earth, Satan led him out into the wilderness. How did he tempt Christ in regards to these three? First: ①**appetites**. Christ went forty days without food and was very hungry. Satan suggested He make stones into bread. Jesus had that power, but how did Christ answer Satan? We have

His quote in Luke 4:4, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*”

Second, how did Satan appeal to ②acquisitions in Christ’s life? He said, “*I will give you all the kingdoms of the world*” (Lk. 4:6). And how did Jesus answer? “*You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only*” (Lk. 4:8). And the third is ③accomplishment. How did Satan appeal to Christ’s power and authority? He had Jesus stand on the pinnacle of the temple and said to Him, “*If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, ‘He will give His angels charge concerning You to guard You...’*” (Lk. 4:9.) Jesus answered, “*Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God*” (Lk. 4:12). He did not succumb to any of Satan’s temptations.

Now look at the fifth column: Does Satan tempt us in any of these three ways? It may sound something like this:

1. Appetites: “**You deserve it all!**”
2. Acquisitions: “**You can have it all!**”
3. Accomplishments: “**You can do it all!**”

Now move to the sixth column: What if we have fallen for one of Satan’s traps, and we are rendered immobile through our appetites, acquisitions or accomplishments. How do we come back/return? How does the Lord restore us? What is that process?

Let’s start with our appetites. We need to call on Him in the situation in which we have landed ourselves. Call it what it is, “Lord, I have followed the god of appetite, and I am acknowledging that.” When we acknowledge our hunger and our helplessness, He comes alongside and restores us.

If we are rendered immobile by the acquisitions and materialism and all the things that we get into in our culture, we need to come heavy laden. “*Come unto me all who are weary and **heavy laden**, and I will give you rest*” (Matt. 11:28). Rest is the first part of restore. In addition, restaurant means a place to rest and eat. It is all part of the same root. That is what the Lord wants for us. REST! Do not wRESTle!

Finally, in the area of accomplishment, “*Pride cometh before a fall*” (Prov. 16:18). We need to come humbly, because of our search for a prideful place for ourselves. James tells us, “*God is opposed to the proud and gives grace to the humble*” (Jas. 4:6). And then in Micah 6:8, “*Walk humbly with your God.*” We are to call on him in humility—confessing our pride. He will come, and He will restore us back again. This is the message of a restoring God; He is faithful! He will bring us back and restore us to Himself.

One of the key words is ‘helpless’: helplessly-hungry, helplessly heavy-laden, helplessly humble. The more we try and do things on our own, the more trouble we get into.

**Half our problems are from wanting our own way.  
The other half is from getting our own way!**

### Victimization

Look again at the card, turn it over and look at the fence. Do you see something tiny and unusual? There is a little turtle—a turtle on the fencepost.

Illustration: Two friends were walking in the woods and came to a broken-down fence. As they looked around they saw a tiny turtle on the top of a fencepost. What would they think? “How did it get there?” ... “Who put it there?” ... “Why would anyone do such a thing?” ... “How is it going to get down?” Conclusion: “Somebody put it there. It cannot get down by itself. Someone has to take it down.” The turtle then can resume normal activity.

How did it get there? Someone must have come along and for their own sport, their own evil deed, and victimized the helpless turtle. Then they just walked off and left it in a very precarious situation. The turtle did not get there of its own accord. It was innocent and helpless. It was previously just crawling around on its legs like all turtles do when someone decided to have a little ‘fun’ at the turtle’s expense. The turtle was a victim. But what is the answer to this dilemma?

The answer—someone with compassion needs to lift it out of its dilemma and place it gently down on the ground to allow it to walk again.

Our Shepherd is ready to help us—the answer for our victimization. We need to come to Him in our helplessness no matter how we got there—whether of our own accord, or by someone else’s evil deed. The answer is still the same. We need our gentle and compassionate Shepherd to restore our souls. He is **GRACE personified**.

The Old Testament story of Joseph dramatizes how he was first victimized by his brothers and later by Potipher’s wife. However, Joseph’s life message may be derived from the naming of his two sons. Manneseh means “God caused me to forget my troubles” (Gen. 41:51), and Ephraim, “God caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction” (Gen. 41:52). Joseph looked to God to redeem the situation in which he found himself. A horrible situation was turned into a greater blessing. “And as for me, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive” (Gen. 50:20).

Jesus was the ultimate victim of man’s evil deeds. He was totally innocent. But while He was victimized by people, God laid on Him the sins of the whole world, including the sins of those who were victimizing Him. “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [atoning victim] for our sins” (1 Jn. 4:10). And in the midst of His agony, He prays, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” (Lk. 23:34). Can you imagine how wrong the whole situation was? The worst wrong ever perpetrated in the entire world, was used by God so that He could aright (restore) His sheep, and aright (restore) the victims (afflicted). “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all” (Ps. 34:19).

### **Restoring by the Shepherd Alone**

- You will experience the healing of your heart wounds and enjoy His rest as you call on Him.
- You will be able to truly say, “The Lord is MY SHEPHERD!” You will be able to experience a personal relationship with Him.
- In Psalm 23, note the change in pronoun (from third person to second person):
  - ‘He’ in vs. 1-3 — David speaks all about God—His faithfulness.
  - ‘Thou’ in vs. 4-6 — David speaks to God—shows intimate relationship after restoration.

Our circumstances have laid the groundwork for a new intimacy with our Shepherd. Which way does a sheep look when he is flat on his back? Only one way—UP. His cry also goes only one way—UP. That is all he can do! Our Shepherd wants to restore us and comfort us. The Lord will restore us just as soon as we call. *“The Lord will be gracious unto you at the sound of your cry”* (Isa. 30:19).

Other sheep cannot turn a cast sheep over or lift it up. They are as helpless as it is. They can come alongside, bleat with it, but they cannot do the necessary restoring process. They cannot say, “You two get on this side and push, and you three get over on the other side and pull, so we can get this sheep up on its feet.” They are also helpless—even to help each other—except to call on the Shepherd together! We can bring people to the Shepherd, point people to the Shepherd, but the restoring is His job, not ours. And He alone receives the glory!

*“For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, nor has He hidden His face from him. When he cried to Him for help, He heard”* (Ps. 22:24). *“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul, and You I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me”* (Ps. 25:2).

### **Present -Tense GRACE**

A man of God was asked years ago, “If you were to distill the Christian life into a word or two, what would it be?” He thought for a minute, and said, **“THOU NOW, THOU NOW.”** This short phrase shows the intimacy (THOU) and the immediacy (NOW). Doesn’t that say it all? Note the top and bottom border on Visual.

Read the poem entitled Someday — Today (at end of lesson) by first reading only the lines (every other line) starting with “Someday:”

Someday our heartaches will be over,	Someday we will no burden bear,
Someday our pain will be no more,	Someday our Savior’s rest we’ll share.
Someday we all will understand,	Someday we will this earth possess,
Someday we’ll enter Heaven’s land,	Someday we’ll feel no loneliness,
Someday we’ll feel no pull of sin,	Someday we’ll bless Him face to face,
Someday we’ll all be pure within,	Someday all cares will be erased

This makes perfect sense and is all true and wonderful because someday all this will happen—in the FUTURE. However, we also have a shepherd **TODAY**—in the **present**, Who watches over us, looks out for us and cares for us. Now read the entire poem: **Someday — Today!**

Much of what we hear today is a hope for the FUTURE—someday. But we have hope for TODAY—twenty-four hours a day! This is a TODAY message—not only a SOMEDAY message. It is for NOW!

We have His shepherding care today! For the present tense, think Shepherd (Ps. 23). For the past, think Savior (Ps. 22). For the future, think Sovereign (Ps. 24). But TODAY think Shepherd—someone who walks with you. We need this comfort and assurance today. The world is full of many hurting sheep who need our Restoring Shepherd. *“He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord. In the majesty of the name of the Lord his God, and they will live securely. For then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth, and He will be their peace”* (Micah 5:4-5).

**Present tense**, today, fill in date, every minute, every moment, our Shepherd is available. No matter how we get into situations in life, the answer is still the same. We have a Shepherd who is ready to restore instantaneously when we call. It is a wonderful message. He is a wonderful Shepherd of GRACE.

### **Prayer**

Lord, we are so thankful today for Your precious grace that restores. We are so grateful that You are always available (24/7) ready to restore no matter how we have gotten into our situations; whether it is by our own waywardness or by someone else's evil deeds. Whatever our plight, we know that when we call, You will answer. You will come and restore us. You will soothe us. You will comfort us, care for us, protect us, give us security, safety and rest. You have made all this possible because You went to the cross bearing all our sin and all our shame. We thank You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Review and reinforce this lesson by incorporating the following notes and quotes pages and by reading the Scriptures.**

# Cast Sheep

<b>CAST SHEEP</b> Matt. 9:36 (...downcast like sheep without a shepherd)	<b>SCRIPTURE</b> 1 John 2:16 (all that is in the world)	<b>SATAN / EVE</b> 2 Cor. 11:3 (Satan deceived Eve)	<b>SATAN / CHRIST</b> Matt. 4:1-11 Luke 4:1-13 (Christ tempted by the devil)	<b>SATAN / US</b> 1 Pet. 5:8 (prowls like a roaring lion)	<b>RESTORE / RESCUE</b> Jer. 33:3 2 Chron. 7:14 (humble, pray, seek, turn)	<b>VICTIM</b> 2 Chron. 20:12 Jer. 30:17 (Come/cry/call in our helplessness, powerlessness, cluelessness)
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<b>A P P E T I T E S</b>	...by eating too much grass and becoming bloated	“Lust of the flesh”  (appeal to physical appetite)	<i>Satan:</i> “Has God said you shall not eat from any tree?” Gen. 3:1  <i>Eve:</i> “saw that the tree was good for food.” Gen. 3:6	<i>Satan:</i> “tell these stones to become bread.” Luke 4:3  <i>Christ:</i> “Man shall not live by bread alone.” Luke 4:4	<i>Satan:</i> “You deserve it all!”  <i>Us:</i> “Having food and raiment, therewith be content.” 1 Tim. 6:8	<b>COME</b> in our hunger  Matt. 5:6 (blessed are they that hunger...) Heb. 13:9 (heart established with grace not food) Ps. 145:14-16	<i>Joseph:</i> “They meant it for evil, but God meant it for good to save many people alive.” Gen. 50:20  * * * * <i>Joseph’s</i> life messages-- naming his two sons. <i>Mannaseh</i> means “God caused me to forget my troubles” Gen 41:51 <i>Ephraim:</i> “God caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction” Gen 41:52  * * * * <b>Who shall deliver me?</b> <b>Rom. 7:24</b> <b>The victim of Calvary became our Victor.</b> <b>Rom. 7:25</b>  * * * * The Lord is my Shepherd...He restores my soul! Ps. 23:3 For you were like sheep going astray, but now have returned to the Shepherd of your souls. 1 Pet. 2:25
<b>A C Q U I S I T I O N S</b>	...by collecting dirt, debris and manure on fleece and becoming heavy	“Lust of the eye”  (appeal to personal gain)	<i>Satan:</i> “You will know good and evil” (God is withholding from you) Gen. 3:5  <i>Eve:</i> “...that it was a delight to the eyes.” Gen. 3:6	<i>Satan:</i> “I will give you all the kingdoms of the world.” Luke 4:6  <i>Christ:</i> “You shall worship the Lord thy God.” Luke 4:8	<i>Satan:</i> “You can have it all!”  <i>Us:</i> “For the love of money is the root of all evil.” 1 Tim. 6:10	<b>COME</b> heavy laden  Matt. 11:28-29 (weary and heavy laden) Ps. 55:22 (cast burdens) 1 Pet. 5:7 (cast all care)	
<b>A C C O M P L I S H M E N T S</b>	...by straying to greener tuft of grass and rolling into hidden hollow	“Pride of life”  (appeal to power and glory, ambition, prowess)	<i>Satan:</i> “You will be like God!” Gen. 3:6 <i>Eve:</i> “...that the tree was desirable to make one wise.” Gen. 3:6  “She took from its fruit and ate.” Gen. 3:6	<i>Satan:</i> “If you are the son of God, throw yourself down from there.” Luke 4:9  <i>Christ:</i> “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” Luke 4:12  “Jesus...came to destroy the works of the Devil.” 1 Jn. 3:8	<i>Satan:</i> “You can do it all.”  <i>Us:</i> “God is opposed to the proud, and gives grace to the humble.” Jas. 4:6,10 1 Pet. 5:5-7	<b>COME</b> humbly  Isa. 57:15 (contrite, lowly) Micah 6:8 (walk humbly with your God)	

## Provision for All

From the peaceful lyrics of the shepherd's song comes the familiar line, "He restores my soul." God's offer of restoration to the sheep of His pasture stands recorded in just four simple words. His gracious initiative to the broken entreats a response, but the recognition of need must precede a response.. How can we identify people who would benefit from God's unique promise of restoration?

In his book, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, W. Phillip Keller writes of helpless "cast" sheep. A cast sheep is one who has turned over on its back and cannot right itself. As the sheep thrashes around, gases begin to build up in its stomach restricting blood circulation to the extremities. Unless set upright again, the suffering sheep will die within a few hours.

Keller describes three reasons why sheep become cast: they seek out the soft comfort of hollows in the grass and roll over on their backs; they collect debris in their long, matted fleece and the sheer weight of the wool pulls them down; or they amass such great body weight that they are unstable on their feet and fall easily.

One can draw parallels between cast sheep and broken believers. Like their animal counterparts, Christians become "cast" when they seek out worldly pleasures, succumb to sinful desires or habits or settle for lives of complacency and ease. Despite a self-sufficient veneer, human beings can be as cast and helpless as any defenseless lamb. Recognizing this helplessness becomes the very qualification for God to begin His work of restoration.

The Savior's heart pulsates with love for hurting people. He sees men and women as they truly are and he is moved with compassion. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus vigilantly watches with concern for those who are cast and tenderly sets them on their feet once more through the restoring power of the Cross. Like the watchful Savior, we must be sensitive, able to discern a brother or sister in dire straits, and be prepared to come to their rescue in patience and gentleness.

JoAnn Hummel

**Friends honored a noted elocutionist and actor with a banquet. During the evening he was asked to give a reading; he chose the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. His clean enunciation, delicate expression, and impressive phraseology caused enthusiastic applause. Later in the evening, a preacher eighty-five years of age was asked to speak; he read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Everything about his reading evidenced heart-experience of the blessings assured in the Psalm. When he concluded, there was no applause but everyone seemed to be in tears. The elocutionist and actor, grasping his hand, said, "Sir, I know the Psalm, but you know the Shepherd."**

William McCarrell



## Reliant Rest

*"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6)*

Our Father allows us to be independent until by that means we come to know our own weakness and need. "Strength is always the effect of having to do with God in the spirit of dependence."

"Some say, 'I want to feel that I am strong.' What we need is to feel that we are weak; this brings in Omnipotence. We shall have a life of feeling by-and-by in the glory; now we are called upon to lead a life of faith. What believer but knows from the experience of the deceitfulness of his own heart, that, had we power in ourselves instead of in Christ, we should be something. This is what God does not intend."

"The very essence of the condition of a soul in a right state is conscious dependence. Now one may use the fact of completeness in Christ to make one independent. Two things are implied in dependence: first, the sense that we cannot do without God in a single instance; and, secondly, that He is 'for us.' In other words, there is confidence in His love and power on our behalf, as well as the consciousness that without Him we can do nothing."

J. N. Darby

"We are to walk humbly and lean ever and only on the mighty arm of the living God. Thus the soul is kept in a well-balanced condition, free from self-confidence and fleshly excitement, on the one hand; and free from gloom and depression, on the other. If we can do nothing, self-confidence is the height of presumption. If God can do everything, despondency is the height of folly."

Unknown

*"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).*



Years ago, Dr. Trumbull was speaking to a hungry-hearted minister, a successful and brilliant preacher. He was defeated in his life. He was eager for victory, and for the fullness of the Spirit in his life. He was fully surrendered to Christ so far as he knew. Dr. Trumbull asked him if he believed the first verse of the Twenty-third Psalm. He said that certainly he did. It was one of his favorite texts.

“Does the Shepherd meet all of the needs of His sheep, or just some of the needs of the sheep?”

The minister was bright enough to see where this question was leading, and with some hesitation he said, “Well, of course, He meets all of the needs of the sheep.”

“Now,” this Christian layman said to him, “you are getting yourself into a corner, and it is the most blessed corner you ever got into in your life. Is the Lord at this moment meeting all of your needs?”

In a few moments they knelt together, and this minister thanked God that the Lord was his Shepherd. The Lord was meeting all his needs.

Hundreds of times since then I have used this verse often with startling results.

That is what faith is, believing that this is true, not because of outward circumstance or inward feeling, but because God says it. Faith is not feeling. Faith is not sight. Faith takes God at His Word. Faith is counting on God’s faithfulness.

Is it too simple and easy? Let us remember what it cost to make the victorious life Psalm possible. The entrance into the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is through the 22<sup>nd</sup>: “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?” It cost Calvary, and it cost Pentecost. Only through the death of Christ and the resurrection of Christ, and the sending of the Holy Spirit, could this great salvation be provided for us here. It has been provided. **OUR PART IS TO BELIEVE.**

Unknown



The Lord is my shepherd;



A Christian traveler in Switzerland told a little Swiss shepherd boy about salvation through Jesus, the Shepherd. Due to a language difficulty, the traveler suggested that the boy could remember about Jesus being His Savior and Shepherd by using his four fingers and thumb. He said, “Take the five words, ‘The Lord is my Shepherd.’ One for the thumb and one for each finger.” Later traveling in the same territory, he went to the little fellow’s home to learn how he was doing. The mother stated her boy had died. He expressed sorrow. The mother then asked, “Are you the man who taught my boy to say something on his fingers?” He replied he was. She then said, “My boy told me that if you should come this way, to tell you that he died holding the fourth finger of his hand.” This fourth finger was linked with the word “my”. He meant, “The Lord is ‘MY’ Shepherd.”

William McCarrell

*Luther said, “The richness of spiritual experience is dependent upon one appropriating that indicated in Scripture by personal and possessive pronouns.” The word “my” when evidencing possessing Jesus Christ as Saviour is a wonderful word to die by. However, it can also be a wonderful word to live by, if it indicated that one is appropriating, experiencing, and enjoying the Great Shepherd who lives for, in and through His sheep, who are His saved ones. Such life with the Shepherd can only be enjoyed after one has become His sheep by receiving Him as Saviour.*

Anon

Our modern word “psychiatry” comes from the two Greek words *ψυχη* (*psyche*) and *ιατρεια* (*iatreia*): *psycheiatreia*. The word “psyche really means the person, and is variously translated as “breath,” “soul,” “mind,” “reason,” and the like.

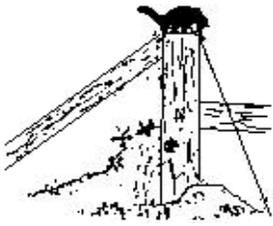
The word “iatreia” means “treatment,” “healing,” “restoring,” and the like.

So, put the two words together and we have “the healing of the mind,” or, as David might have said, “the restoring of the soul.” Charles L. Allen, *God’s Psychiatry*



- My Shepherd
- My Sufficiency
- My Response
- My Refreshment
- My Restoration
- My Guidance
- My Journey
- My Courage
- My Companion
- My Comfort
- My Provision
- My Victory
- My Anointing
- My Abundance
- My Attendants
- My Life
- My Eternity

- “Jehovah is my Shepherd”
- “I shall not want”
- “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures”
- “He leadeth me beside still waters”
- “He restoreth my soul”
- “He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name’s sake”
- “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”
- “Thou preparest a table before me”
- “In the presence of mine enemies”
- “Thou hast anointed my head with oil”
- “My cup runneth over”
- “Goodness and mercy shall follow me”
- “All the days of my life”
- “And I shall dwell in the house of Jehovah forever.”



## Turtle on a Fencepost

**Attrition** - A gradual wearing or weakening in strength due to constant stress – outside source

**Conitription**- earnest repentance –

inside source

- Psalm 34:18 "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
- Psalm 51:17b "A broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."
- Psalm 57:15 "For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, 'I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the heart of the contrite.'"
- Psalm 53:5 "But He was pierced through for our transgression, He was crushed for iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed."
- Matthew 12:20 "A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out, till He leads justice to victory."

## "The Lord is my Shepherd"

Psalm 23:1

Who is it that is your Shepherd? The LORD! Oh, my friends, what a wonderful announcement! The Lord God of heaven and earth, and Almighty Creator of all things; He who holds the universe in His Hand as though it were a very little thing. He is your Shepherd, and has charged himself with the care and keeping of you, as a shepherd is charged with the care and keeping of His sheep. If your hearts could really take in this thought you would never have a fear or a care again; for with such a Shepherd how could it be possible for you ever to want a good thing?

H. W. Smith

Come, my sheep, shadows deep fall over land and sea,  
Fast the day fades away;

Come and rest with me. Come, and in my fold abide –  
Dangers lurk on every side – till at last night is past;  
In my fold abide.

Come, my sheep, I will keep watch the long night through.  
Safe from harm and alarm,  
I will shelter you. Through the night my lambs shall rest  
Safe upon the Shepherd's breast, folded there free from care  
Through the night shall rest.

Come, my sheep, calmly sleep sheltered in the fold,  
Weary one homeward come –  
Winds are blowing cold. Rest until the dawn shall break,  
Then with joy my flocks shall wake; pastures new wait for you  
When the dawn shall break.

Dorothy B. Polsue

## The First Cause

"A man's goings are established of Jehovah; and he delighteth in His way" (Psalm 37:23, ASV)

Throughout time and eternity the God of circumstances has every situation planned for our good, and for His glory (Romans 8:28-29). That is all that should matter to us. "Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee" (Psalm 76:10). "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many rebound to the glory of God" (2 Corinthians 4:15).

"What the other person said or did to you was undoubtedly wrong and cannot be justified. Nor did he do it at God's direction; but God permitted him to do it for some wise reason which will yet prove to have been abundantly worthwhile for you. By the time that action reached you it had become the will of God for you, since to a yielded believer there are no second causes."

"He believes the Psalmist's declaration that every step of life's pathway has been ordered by the Lord. No trial or affliction can reach you who are abiding in Him, without His permission. You can, therefore, be confident in every circumstance of life, however baffling, that it has been permitted in your own best interest by the wisest and most loving of fathers, who knows our 'load-limit' (1 Corinthians 10:13)."

Oswald Sanders

"All that we pass through is that we may get a fresh view of the Lord Jesus, or a deepening of a former one; but often we are so occupied with ourselves and the circumstance, that we fail to 'behold the glory of the Lord.'" – C.T.

"If the external plannings of men or Satan further God's plans, they succeed; if not, they come to nothing."

J. N. Darby

"Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with His hand" (Psalm 37:24)

### Joseph

(Genesis 50:20)

I knew I had been sold,  
For corruptness  
Dark as a desert pit  
And dismal as the slaver's caravan  
Surrounded me,  
And seemed to crush me down;  
I had been sold.  
  
I also had been sent.  
The circumstance  
Shone with the light Divine.  
And through the wrath of men,  
God put me in His own appointed place.  
He set on High,  
And none could bow me down  
I HAD BEEN SENT –

M. M. Dexter

# *Someday - Today*

*Someday our heartaches will be o'er,  
Today He comforts me.  
Someday our pain will be no more;  
Today I have His grace.*

*Someday we all will understand;  
Today I trust His will.  
Someday we'll enter heaven's land;  
Today I walk with Him.*

*Someday we'll feel no pull of sin;  
Today He does forgive.  
Someday we'll be all pure within;  
Today He cleanses me.*

*Someday we will no burden bear;  
Today I have His strength.  
Someday our Savior's rest we'll share;  
Today I'm in His arms.*

*Someday we will this earth possess;  
Today I live by faith.  
Someday we'll feel no loneliness;  
Today Christ walks with me.*

*Someday we'll bless Him face to face;  
Today He blesses me.  
Someday all cares will be erased;  
Today He cares and keeps.*

*Grace L. Young*