

Grace a sparkling way to live!

"The Lord is my shepherd. . . ."

These words are more than poetry,
they are more than helpful at a memorial service,
these words are an invitation to a way of life.

It is the confident statement that it is possible to live
in the unceasing care of a relentlessly attentive
and gracious God!

Can you make this confident statement?
Does it describe your manner of life?

OR

Do you live worried, weighted, dulled to
the daily presence of the Shepherd?

You know

you were saved by grace, but what
does it mean to live by grace?

Jesus was the ***first*** person on earth to understand and continuously live the 23rd Psalm. His Father was his Shepherd every moment of every day.

Jesus lived in the middle of relentless demands and difficulties, but he allowed himself to be led to green pastures and quiet waters. He lived with a regularly ***restored soul***.

He had no home and yet was content—even joyfully content. He did ***not*** want. Living moment by moment in his Shepherd's presence was enough. He had ***eyes*** to see the Shepherd's gifts. His cup was full and he ***drank*** in every ***day***.

Even on the cross, in the valley of death itself, Jesus ***held*** on to the promises of his Shepherd. Jesus persevered in that path of righteousness for his Shepherd's name sake. . . . for your sake too.

"The Lord is my shepherd. . . ."

What would your days look like if this was really true for you? How would your life be different. . . . your anxieties, joys, confidence, if this was really true for you?

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads
me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul."

Psalm 23:1-3a

➤ **Living in grace requires new eyes!**

Eyes which see God's everyday grace at work all around us.

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns,
and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

How many "ordinary" examples of God's grace
do we experience every day and fail to even notice?

➤ **The discipline of Noticing!**

Developing eyes that see!

To notice something—to truly pay attention—is a powerful thing!

Children demand it.

Spouses feel hurt without it.

Paying deep down attention to something is to become absorbed in it.

The practice of noticing is a skill—learn it!

➤ **Seizing ordinary moments!**

I believe that we must learn to stop and seize these ordinary
moments of grace.

Green pastures and still waters are everywhere. . . if we will seize these moments.

➤ **I shall not want!**

When our spiritual eyes begin to work, we become aware of his
grace all through our days. Our days start filling up with genuine gratitude.

The psalmist says,

"The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want."

What the psalmist is simply saying are these incredible words:

I lack nothing!

What it doesn't mean!

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What it does mean!

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