

Everything I need

Psalms 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd;
I have everything I need.

Most of the time when Psalms 23 is read it is at a funeral. It brings us comfort when we are walking through the valley of death and funerals certainly qualify. We feel safe and protected but there is much more to this chapter than safety and protection. This is a chapter about relationships. It is about my relationship with a divine being. It is about my declaration that the Lord is the one who is my Shepherd (the one who watches over me).

With this verse I am declaring to the world that I have decided that the Lord and I are in a symbiotic relationship together. Living under the Lord's care I will receive the very best care possible. I am not settling for a second rate or inferior quality. In reality, I have stepped up to the best care on earth.

It also places us in relational order. The Lord is first and I am second or "the one who follows". It speaks to a dependence that I have in the Lord and not in other sources of support. It is my declaration of *dependence* not *independence*. It reminds me that all my substance, blessings, and happiness come not for earthly sources but from heavenly sources.

The second half of this verse declares quality and quantity of this relationship. It states that all needs are met. That all the things that really matter to me are given to me by my Shepherd, my Lord, who is watching out for my best interest. While I might have trouble in separating my wants from my needs, the Lord sees it clearly. The Lord sees my wants for what they are and on a few special occasions He will supply a few wants as well.

Our Lord lives from the advantage of abundance not from the disadvantage of insufficiency. The Lord gives from the position of abundance. He gives generously and lovingly but does not over give. The Lord's gift correctly matches my heart's ability to receive.

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Point for Prayer:

Where do you need to trust the Lord for His ability to meet your need?