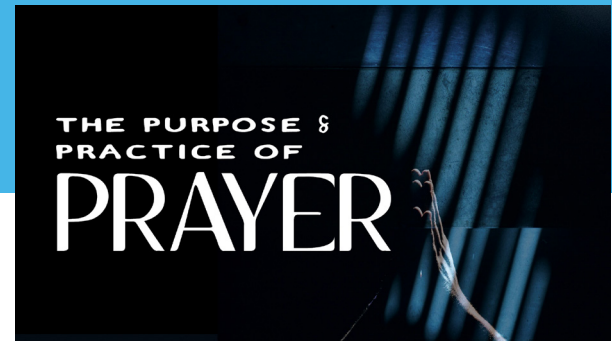


Discussion Questions

October 15, 2023



Practicing Prayer: The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

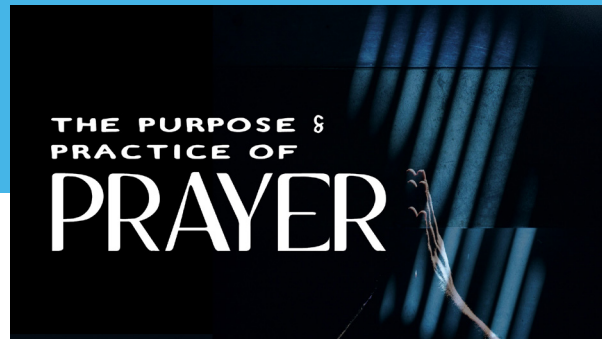
What has been your experience in praying Psalm 23? Do you pray it regularly? What significance has it played for you? What has stood out?

Read Psalm 23

1. Have a few people, in their own words, summarize David's understanding of God revealed in this Psalm.
2. In what ways can you relate to the sheep of this Psalm in wandering off the path, being often "cast down" and requiring restoration, and needing a shepherd to guide us.
3. The idea of God preparing a table in the presence of our enemies is a powerful image. How does this image offer hope and encouragement in the midst of life's challenges? How can we learn to "look at God" when faced with adversity?
4. Discuss which aspect of this Psalm is most significant to you and why.
5. James emphasized that Psalm 23 is not just a prayer for the dying but a prayer for living. In what practical ways can this Psalm lead us towards a more abundant life in Christ?
6. Finish by Praying this prayer together.
 - Have a different person pray out each verse if possible
 - After praying the verse, pray whatever the Lord puts on your heart in regard to that passage
 - Move on to the next verse

Prayer Practice

October 15, 2023



Psalm 23

Each day set aside about ten minutes to pray through this prayer. As you do, prepare your heart and mind. Recognize that you are in the presence of our Great Shepherd who deeply cares for us. As you pray out each line, relax in the moment alone with God. Pause and allow God to fill your thoughts.

Pray out to Him whatever comes to mind, then move on to the next verse and do the same thing again.

Linger for a while on the reality that God is with you in the midst of the adversity and pains of life. Prayerfully dwell upon His complete sufficiency to take care of all our needs and or need to follow Him.

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

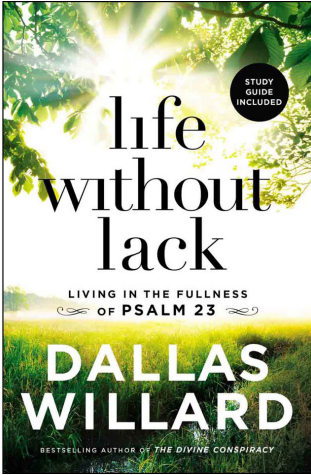
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

10.15.23 Practicing Prayer: The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Psalm 23 (ESV)

A Psalm of David

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



Dallas Willard - Life Without Lack

Unfortunately, "The Lord is my Shepherd" is a sentiment carved on tombstones more often than a reality written in lives.

Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

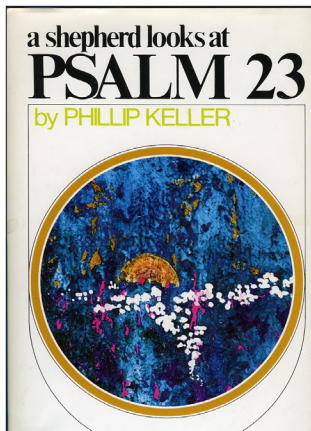
All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Sheep on it's back video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guEyxTpevFo>

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.



Philip Keller: A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23

4 Requirements for Sheep to Lay Down

1. Free from all fear
2. Free from friction with other sheep
3. Free of flies and parasites
4. Free from hunger



Sheep in a ditch video

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Mz2WfBFdOAU>

John 6:68 (NIV)

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

John 10:10 (NIV)

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 17:3 (NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.