



LIVING LOGOS
MINISTRIES

The Living Logos

Teaching Newsletter

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The Lord is My Shepherd ~ Pastor Trey Dickerson

When you read the 23rd Psalm, do you hear “The Lord is David’s Shepherd” or “The Lord is Your Shepherd”? I would venture to say that most Christians do not personalize the promises contained in this Psalm, but rather see them (at best) as general promises to all of God’s children. And while they are certainly for “whosoever will,” I have learned that **they were true for David because He believed they were true for David.** Let me explain:

Notice again that King David begins this Psalm with the profound declaration that “The Lord is *my* Shepherd.” No, David didn’t say that He is the Lord *our* Shepherd; rather, he said that He is the Lord *my* shepherd! You see, there is a big difference between believing what God is to all of us, and who He is to each one of us on an individual level. In fact, I encourage you to take some time to read the entire 23rd Psalm and notice how David personalized everything in this

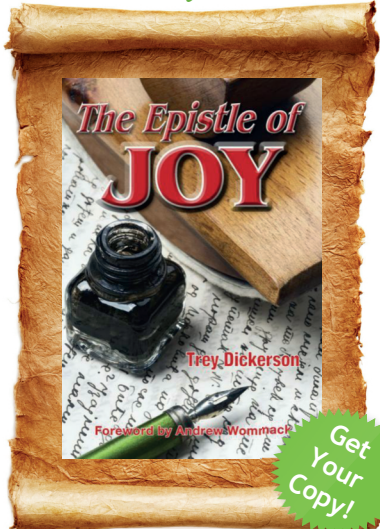
Psalm by only using the personal pronouns “me, my and I” throughout it. You see, I believe it is significant that he didn’t once say, “us, we, our, etc.”

Why? It is because the Lord is our own personal Shepherd and not just a Shepherd to us collectively. Amen!

Saints, one thing that is obvious in the life of King David is that he possessed a confidence that few in the church today have. And one of the main ways in which we see this is in how he personalized God’s promises and made them his



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A WORD FROM SHANNON

1 John 4:16 says that “God is love.” It is not just what He gives; it is who He is. Love is His very nature, the very essence of His being. He is passionate about us and He never stops loving us no matter what. And the good news is that Love will always desire your best.

Once I got the revelation solidified in my heart that God is good all the time, it completely changed my life. Why would love Himself want anything other than your best? And His best is not just for

us to receive His love ourselves, but to give it to others. In fact, it is only when we receive His love that we are able to give out that love to others.

Most people we come in contact with in our everyday lives, believers and unbelievers, have no idea how very much God loves them. As believers, we have the power to represent Jesus by loving others and lifting them up. We are God’s ambassadors, His personal representatives. He is making His appeal to the world through us- what a privilege and responsibility! Purpose in your heart from this day forward to aggressively begin to live to love!

(“The Lord is My Shepherd” continued)

own! David was not “wishy-washy” about it either. He apparently really knew and believed what His God was going to do for him.

For example, what if this Psalm were not a part of the Holy Scriptures and say, I wrote these words in Psalm 23 about myself. You might be tempted to think I was being a little high-minded, arrogant or over-confident, right? But we know that these confident statements by David were inspired by God. Therefore, they are apparently right on! In fact, David even made other statements throughout his life that people misunderstood and was even accused by his brother Eliab in First Samuel 17:28 as being arrogant. But in that situation, David turned from him and kept saying the same things. Yes, he said things that many would consider presumptuous and arrogant—saying things to Goliath like, “This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand...” (First Samuel 17:46). Where did David get this confidence from? We don’t have any reason to believe that God told him any of these things. Where did this persuasion come from? The answer is obvious: **David’s confidence came from knowing his God.**

You see, David knew Yahweh, the One True and Living God, and this is what produced all this boldness and confidence that we see in his life. And I can guarantee you, church, that I know exactly how he knew his God so well: It was because he was a praiser—for the Bible says that in Judah (The Hebrew word for “praise”), God is known (Psalm 76:1). And we know that David was well versed in praise by all the psalms he wrote, amen? Therefore, we can see that **God is known in the arena of praise.** Amen.

In fact, you actually see this throughout the Bible. It was the ones who came to know Him as their own personal God, who made professions that to some might see as a little arrogant. For example, the Apostle John declared time and time again in his Gospel that he was the disciple whom Jesus loved. In fact, he never referred to himself as John, but only as the one who Jesus loved. But for someone to say that this is not being humble would have to say that the Apostle John was in pride—and I can assure you the apostle of love was not a high-minded person.

But here is the truth that we need to understand: As Daniel 11:32 says, **the people who know their God will be strong and do great exploits;** not the people who just know *about* their God. Saints, we must see His face and become intimately acquainted with Him through spending time with Him in His Word, in prayer and in worship. Then, and only then, will our confidence level be where it needs to be. Then, and only then, will we become persuaded that He will back us up and be our shepherd. Yes, it is the one who knows their God that will be strong, bold and courageous!



Therefore, when we see here in Psalm 23:1— “The Lord is My Shepherd”—what should our response be? We should boldly say, “I will say of My Lord: The Lord is My Shepherd. I shall not lack! He will provide for me! He will take care of me! My enemies are His enemies, and He will deliver me! Amen!” Saints, as we become persuaded of who He is, faith will come—and then as we release our faith out of our mouth, mountains start moving! Negative things that have been rooted in our hearts start getting removed! The course of our life will take a turn, and we are ushered into the good life—the life of Psalm 23! **Let the 23rd Psalm become your own, personal song today!**

Victoriously,



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