

## Batch 12 — Scripture Prayer

### Prayer 1: Praying Psalm 23 — The Lord Is My Shepherd

**Category:** Scripture Prayer

**Primary Scripture Foundation (KJV):** Psalm 23:1–6

**Supporting Scriptures (KJV):** Psalm 78:52–53; Isaiah 40:11; John 10:11–14, 27–29; Philippians 4:19; Hebrews 13:20–21; 1 Peter 5:4

This category introduces another important part of the Prayer Library: **praying Scripture back to God.**

We are not using Bible verses as incantations. We read what God has revealed, understand what the text is saying, and allow Scripture to shape our worship, confession, petitions, expectations, and obedience.

Psalm 23 does not promise that God's people will never encounter valleys or enemies.

It teaches something stronger:

**The Shepherd remains with His sheep in the pasture, beside the water, through the valley, and even in the presence of enemies.**

---

## FULL PRAYER — KINGDOM STRUCTURE

### 1. RELATIONAL ACCESS — “THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD”

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I come before You.

David begins:

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

Before he speaks about provision—

he establishes relationship.

**The LORD is my Shepherd.**

Father, You are not merely the God I call when something goes wrong.

You are my Shepherd.

I am Your sheep.

And that means I acknowledge something about myself:

**I need to be led.**

I do not know everything.

I cannot see everything ahead.

I do not always recognize danger.

Sometimes what looks good to me is not good for me.

Sometimes what I resist is exactly where Your wisdom is leading.

So today I confess:

**The LORD is my Shepherd.**

Lead me.

---

## **2. WORSHIP / PROVISION — “I SHALL NOT WANT”**

Father, David continues:

“I shall not want.”

This does not mean I will possess everything I desire.

It means I trust my Shepherd concerning what I truly need.

So Father, deliver me from confusing **want** with **need**.

You know what I need physically.

Emotionally.

Spiritually.

Relationally.

Financially.

You know what I need today.

You know what I will need tomorrow.

Give me daily bread.

Teach me contentment.

And teach me stewardship.

If You provide resources, help me manage them.

If You provide opportunity, help me recognize it.

If You provide wisdom, help me obey it.

I trust the Shepherd to provide—

and I accept my responsibility to follow.

---

### 3. KINGDOM ALIGNMENT — “HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN”

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”

Father, lead me into Your order.

Sometimes I do not know when to stop.

I keep working.

Keep thinking.

Keep carrying.

Keep producing.

Keep worrying.

And sometimes You must teach me to lie down.

Father, teach me rest.

Not laziness.

**Rest.**

Teach me that I do not have to earn my value through constant productivity.

Lead me beside still waters.

Quiet unnecessary noise.

Quiet the pressure to keep up with everybody else.

Quiet comparison.

Quiet internal striving.

Let my soul learn the pace of the Shepherd.

---

#### 4. RESTORATION & GUIDANCE — “HE RESTORETH MY SOUL”

“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”

Father—

restore my soul.

Restore what exhaustion depleted.

Restore what disappointment weakened.

Restore joy where discouragement has drained it.

Restore perspective where pressure distorted it.

Restore discipline where I became careless.

Restore hunger for Your Word where distraction has weakened it.

But Father, restoration is not merely about making me feel better.

David immediately says:

**“He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness.”**

So restore me **to walk rightly**.

Lead me away from sin.

Away from compromise.

Away from bitterness.

Away from dishonesty.

Away from pride.

Away from anything contrary to Your character.

Do not merely comfort me.

**Correct me.**

Because the Shepherd who restores me is also the Shepherd who leads me.

---

## **5. THE VALLEY — “THOU ART WITH ME”**

Father, now the Psalm changes.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...”

David does not say:

**If I enter a valley.**

He says:

**Though I walk through.**

Father, sometimes following the Shepherd still leads through difficult terrain.

So I will not automatically interpret difficulty as abandonment.

The valley does not prove You left me.

Pain does not prove You stopped loving me.

Hardship does not automatically mean I missed Your will.

And Father, notice the language changes.

David was saying:

**He** maketh me.

**He** leadeth me.

**He** restoreth me.

But in the valley he says:

“for thou art with me.”

The valley made the conversation more personal.

So Father, in my valley—

let me know **You**.

Not merely information about You.

You.

When answers are limited—

be near.

When the road is dark—

be near.

When I cannot see far ahead—

teach me to walk with the Shepherd one step at a time.

---

## **6. PROTECTION & CORRECTION — “THY ROD AND THY STAFF”**

“Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

Father, I receive both.

Your protection—

and Your correction.

Sometimes I want the staff that rescues me but not the rod that corrects me.

But a Shepherd who never corrects wandering sheep would not be loving.

So correct me when I wander.

Convict me when I compromise.

Interrupt me when I am heading somewhere destructive.

And protect me from danger I recognize—

and danger I do not.

Let Your correction become comfort because it reminds me:

**I belong to the Shepherd.**

---

## **7. DECLARATION — “THOU PREPAREST A TABLE”**

Father, David declares:

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies...”

Notice—

You did not necessarily remove every enemy before preparing the table.

You demonstrated provision **in their presence**.

So Father, I refuse to believe I need everyone to approve of me before I can have peace.

I do not need every critic silenced.

I do not need every person to understand me.

I do not need revenge.

I do not need to prove myself.

**The Shepherd prepares the table.**

My responsibility is to sit where You placed me.

“thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”

Father, thank You for abundance that cannot always be measured financially.

Peace can overflow.

Joy can overflow.

Wisdom can overflow.

Love can overflow.

Grace can overflow.

Generosity can overflow.

Let what You place in me become enough to bless someone else.

---

## 8. SEAL — “SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY”

Father, I finish where David finishes:

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...”

Not maybe.

**Surely.**

Your goodness.

Your mercy.

I look behind me and recognize that there were moments when I thought I was surviving alone—

but mercy was there.

Moments I made mistakes—

mercy.

Moments I needed another chance—

mercy.

Moments provision arrived—

goodness.

Moments You protected me from something I never saw—

goodness.

And David finishes:

“and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”

That is the destination.

The Psalm does not ultimately end at the green pasture.

It does not end beside still waters.

It does not end in the valley.

It does not end at the table.

**It ends with God.**

Father, let that be the direction of my entire life.

I want the Shepherd more than the pasture.

The Shepherd more than the still water.

The Shepherd more than the overflowing cup.

The greatest gift in Psalm 23 is not what the Shepherd gives.

**It is the Shepherd Himself.**

So today I declare:

The LORD is my Shepherd.

When I have plenty—

my Shepherd.

When I have little—

my Shepherd.

When I rest—

my Shepherd.

When I walk through valleys—

my Shepherd.

When enemies are present—

my Shepherd.

When my cup overflows—

my Shepherd.

And when this earthly journey is complete—

**still my Shepherd.**

I will dwell with the Lord forever.

In Jesus' name,

**Amen.**

---

**QUICK PRAYER — PRAYING PSALM 23**

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I declare with David:

**“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”**

You are my Shepherd.

Therefore I acknowledge that I need to be led.

Provide what I truly need and teach me the difference between need and desire.

You make me lie down in green pastures and lead me beside still waters.

Father, teach me to rest.

Quiet striving.

Quiet comparison.

Quiet unnecessary worry.

Restore my soul.

But do not merely make me feel better—

**lead me in paths of righteousness.**

Correct what needs correcting.

Change what needs changing.

And though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil—

**for Thou art with me.**

The valley does not mean You abandoned me.

Protect me with Your rod.

Guide me with Your staff.

Prepare the table You have for me even in the presence of opposition.

I do not need everyone's approval to have peace.

My cup runs over.

Let Your goodness in my life overflow toward others.

And surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

Father, I want more than the pasture.

More than the still waters.

More than the table.

More than the overflowing cup.

**I want the Shepherd.**

The LORD is my Shepherd today.

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

In Jesus' name,

**Amen.**