

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Favorite Psalms Bible Study - Part 1

Psalm 23:1-6 Lesson #6

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in Psalms before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word. Most Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

1-2 **The Lord is my SHEPHERD**; I shall not want (lack, be in need). He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

• **John 10:11-13** “I am the good _____. The _____ gives His _____ for the _____. But he who is a hireling and not the shepherd, one who does not _____ the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.”

• **Psalm 34:8-10** “O taste and see that the _____ is _____: Blessed is the man who _____ in Him! Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints; for there is _____ (LACK) to them that fear (reverence) Him. The young lions _____, and suffer hunger, but _____ who _____ the _____ shall _____ any _____ thing.”

• **Psalm 95:6-7** “Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the _____ of His _____, and the _____ of His hand....”

• **Ezekiel 34:11-12** “For thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I _____ will search for My _____ and seek them out. As a shepherd _____ for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered _____, so I will _____ for My _____ and will _____ them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day.’”

• **Luke 15:3-7** “So He spoke this parable (a story illustrating something about God) to them saying, ‘What man of you, having a hundred _____, if He _____ one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the _____ which is _____ until He finds it? And when He has _____ it, He lays it on His shoulders, _____. And when He comes home, He calls together His _____ and neighbors, saying to them, ‘_____ with Me, for I have _____ My _____ which was lost!’ I say to you that likewise (in the same way) there will be more _____ in _____ over one _____ who _____ than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.’”

Definition: “HIRELING and NOT the SHEPHERD” — Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of His FLOCK, the church. He OWNS the sheep, but there are many under-shepherds (pastors, ministers of churches, Sunday School teachers, etc.). **Those who have a TRUE GIFT from God to pastor or shepherd His flock**, will do so eagerly and freely. However, there will always be some who serve in the church out of wrong motives - either for money, prestige, pride of position, or desire for power. Jesus says these people are just “hirelings” who **do NOT really love and care for His sheep**.

• **I Peter 5:2-4** “_____ the _____ of God which is among you, serving as overseers (pastors), not by constraint (being forced) but willingly, not for _____ gain but eagerly; not as being _____ over those _____ to you, but being _____ to the flock; and when the Chief _____ appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

• **Ephesians 4:11-13** “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some _____ and _____, for the _____ of the _____ for the work of _____, for the edifying (building up) of the _____ of Christ.”

• **John 10:14-15** “I _____ the _____; and I know My sheep, and am _____ by My _____. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I _____ My _____ for the _____.”

• **Isaiah 40:11** “Like a _____ He will tend His _____, in His arm He will gather the _____, and carry them in His bosom; He will _____ lead the nursing ewes.”

• **Micah 5:4** “And He will arise and _____ His _____ in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth.”

• **Hebrews 13:20-21** “Now may the God of peace who brought _____ our Lord _____ from the _____, that great _____ of the _____, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through _____ Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen.”

• **I Peter 2:24-25** “Who Himself bore (took away) our _____ in His own _____ on the tree (cross), that we, having died to sins, might _____ for _____ — by whose stripes (wounds) you were healed. For you were like _____ going astray, but have now _____ to the _____ and Overseer of your _____.”

Definition: “I am KNOWN by My OWN” — The most important thing we will ever do in our lives is to come to KNOW JESUS. Nothing else matters (see Matthew 7:21-23).

• **Jeremiah 9:23-24** “Thus says the Lord, ‘Let not the wise man boast (glory) in his _____, and let not the mighty man boast of his _____, let not the rich man boast of his _____; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he _____ and _____ Me, that I am the _____ who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on the earth; for I delight in these things,’ declares the Lord.”

3 **He RESTORES my SOUL; He LEADS ME** in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

• **Psalms 42:5** “Why are you cast _____, O my _____? And why are you disquieted within me?”

• **James 1:21** “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and _____ with meekness the implanted _____, which is able to _____ your _____.”

• **Psalms 31:3** “For You are my _____ and my _____; therefore, for Your name’s sake, _____ me and _____ me.”

• **Psalms 5:8** “_____ me, O Lord, in Your _____ because of my enemies; make Your _____ before my face.”

Definition: “He RESTORES my SOUL” – The Biblical description of depression is “a downcast and disquieted SOUL” (Psalm 42:5). Depression can cause you to make irrational decisions: for example, to suddenly change jobs, sell your home, or do any number of irrational things without praying or seeking God for direction. It can cause Christians to isolate and not fellowship with other Believers, which only makes things worse. Maybe you’ve even known of someone you thought was a “strong Christian” who committed suicide because of depression. **Depression for a Christian, a born-again**

child of God, is NOT coming from the spirit, but from the SOUL. If you are suffering from depression, there may be some other contributing physical factors such as fatigue, hormones, or some other chemical imbalance, but **your primary need is for your SOUL to be RESTORED.** Many Christians do not understand the difference between soul and spirit, and they do not understand that God does NOT want your life to be controlled by your soul, but rather by YOUR spirit and the Holy Spirit.

In the New Testament, “restoring the soul” is called **RENEWING the MIND.** The promise we have from God for renewing our minds is that we will be TRANSFORMED, CHANGED and MADE NEW! If you want to see **positive changes** in your life, you **must renew your mind** by constantly reading the **WORD of GOD.** Otherwise, you will think, act and talk just like the rest of the world. As your mind (your way of thinking) is changed, you will begin to see things as God sees them, and your outward behavior will change. If you, as a child of God, fail to renew your mind, you will be open and vulnerable to depression just like anyone else! **RENEWING** your mind with the WORD of GOD is like re-programming a computer - **you must REPLACE all the old THOUGHT PATTERNS** with God’s thoughts (from His word). This is also called “having the MIND of CHRIST.”

●**Philippians 2:5** “Let this _____ be in _____ which was also in _____.”

●**Ephesians 4:23-24** “And be _____ in the spirit of your _____; and that you put on the _____, which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.”

●**Proverbs 4:4** “Let your _____ retain My _____; keep my commandments and _____.”

●**Proverbs 4:20-23** “My son, give attention to My _____;do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your _____; for they are _____ to those who find them, and _____ to all their flesh. Keep (guard, watch over) your _____ with all diligence; for out of it are the _____ of _____.”

●**Philippians 4:6-9** “.....guard your _____ and _____ through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is any _____ - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these _____, and the God of _____ will be with you.”

Definition: “The implanted WORD, which is able to SAVE your SOULS” – We know that it is the **WORD of God** that is the seed which causes a person to be born of God and saved, but in this context, the phrase “save your souls” does not mean our initial salvation and receiving eternal life. In this context, where James is talking to “the Brethren”, meaning those who are already Christians and “saved”, it means **a RENEWING of our MINDS, as the mind is part of the SOUL.** We “receive the implanted word” every time we hear a sermon or Bible study, or read God’s word on our own, if we really pay attention and receive His word “with meekness” (humility), which means a teachable spirit. Peter calls it “**desiring the pure milk of the WORD**” for “baby Christians”, and also that it is through **these PRECIOUS PROMISES from GOD’S WORD** that we become “partakers of God’s own divine nature”. We become partakers (take part in) God’s nature as **we are transformed into the image of His Son Jesus Christ**, and this happens as our minds are renewed and “saved” by the word of God.

●**Romans 12:2** “And do not be conformed to this world, but be _____ by the _____ of your _____ that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

●**Romans 8:29** “For whom He foreknew, him He also predestinated (planned ahead) to be _____ to the _____ of His _____, that He (Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

4-5 Yea, 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 runs over.

•**Job 10:21** “Before I go to the place from which I shall not return, to the land of darkness and the _____ of _____.”

•**Psalm 3:5-6** “I _____ down and _____; I awoke, for the _____ sustained me. I will _____ be _____ of ten thousands of people who have set themselves _____ me all around.”

Definition: “I WALK through the VALLEY of the SHADOW of DEATH” – This is a promise of God’s presence with us when we come to the actual time of death and leaving this world, and it is also a comfort to know He is with us when we just go through terrible times of difficulty and trials, which may seem like we are near death.

•**Isaiah 43:2** “When you _____ through the _____, I will be _____ you; and through the _____, they shall not _____ you. When you _____ through the _____, you shall _____ be _____, nor shall the flame scorch you.”

Definition: “Your ROD and Your STAFF they COMFORT me” – The shepherd would have a walking stick, and also a long rod with a curved end, so that he could grab a hold of a sheep if it fell in a pit or got stuck somewhere. He would also use his staff and rod to gently guide the sheep in the right direction. **It is a COMFORT to us to know that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, can also RESCUE US from DANGEROUS places where we have FALLEN or gotten STUCK.**

•**Psalm 37:23-24** “The _____ of a _____ man are _____ by the _____, and He delights in his way. Though he _____, he shall _____ be utterly cast down; for the Lord _____ him with His _____.”

6 Surely **GOODNESS and MERCY** shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

•**Psalm 84:11** “For the Lord God is a sun and shield, the Lord will _____ and glory: no _____ thing will He _____ from them that walk uprightly.”

•**Romans 8:28** “And we know that _____ things _____ together for _____ to those who _____ God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

•**Exodus 33:18-19** “Then he [Moses] said, ‘Please, show me Your _____. Then He said, ‘I will make all My _____ pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the _____ before you; I will be _____ to whom I will be _____, and I will have compassion (show MERCY) on whom I will have _____.’”

•**Exodus 34:5-6** “Then the _____ descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him and proclaimed, ‘The _____, the _____ God, _____ and _____, longsuffering (patient), and abounding in _____ and _____.’”

•**I Chronicles 16:34** “O give thanks unto the _____, for He is _____; for His _____ endures forever.”