



Psalm 23: A Testimony to the Truth of God's Word

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want (v. 1).

Through prayer, God has demonstrated that His Word is living and active in my daily life. This is the testimony of every praying Christian.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters (v. 2).

God has flooded my life with good. He blessed me with a good home, my wife and three children. He very clearly led me to the teaching position I'm in now and through it provides everything we need.

He restores my soul (v. 3a).

God has so faithfully and patiently worked to get me back on the right track when I make a mess of things by going my own way.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake (v. 3b).

When my oldest son went off to college, God led him to a church with strong teaching and discipleship. Now that he's graduated and on his own, Andrew still walks with Christ and receives support from his church. All this is in direct answer to our prayers.

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 (v. 4).

God guided my family to Northpoint. Through our church home, God has given us a network of support and prayer for all life's ups and downs.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies (v. 5a).

Increasingly, the society I live in is becoming hostile to Christ and those who love Him. But Christ cares for His own. He always will.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows (v. 5b).

God has designed life to blossom and flower with blessing. Our daughter is engaged to be married, and we've seen God provide and deliver her from several snares along the way. In our youngest son's life, God is revealing talent, ability and direction.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever (v. 6).

For years, our family has been praying for a nephew to return to Christ. On Thanksgiving Day, he posted that God is back in his life and he is going to church. Now we share the eternal hope of God's goodness and mercy at work in his life.

Prayer for Northpoint: God has blessed us so much as a church and as individual believers. Ask God to help us realize our responsibility to tell others about the Source of all blessing and how they can come to know Him.

Prayer for the United States: Ask God to use His Church to reveal again to the United States that our blessings ultimately come from Him alone. God is able to turn our hearts to seek Him. Ask Him to do so.

Prayer for the World: Ask God to open our eyes to the vast spiritual battle raging among the nations, so that His people repent from seeking fleshly means to solve spiritual problems. Pray that God's people will take up weapons of spiritual warfare that are "not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds" (2nd Corinthians 10:4).

Prayer in Support of Ministry:

- *Ministry of the Word:* Pray for God to speak and to give us ears to hear and hearts to respond to His Word.
- *Winter Camps:* Ask God to use these mountain gatherings to speak His life-changing truth into the lives of Northpoint's elementary, junior high, and high school students.
- *Congregational Meeting:* Pray for wisdom and harmony to guide our church as we meet to vote in a new member and to discuss finances. Pray that God's Spirit will direct our church.