

Psalm 23:3

God Provides for His Sheep's Spiritual Needs.

I. God provided for David's spiritual needs (Ps 23:3).

A. He restored David's soul.

1. "Soul" refers to one's spirit
 - a. David is referring to spiritual revival.
 - b. This is not simply physical or emotional refreshment.
 - c. Hebrew poetic parallelism indicates here that David experienced spiritual revival.
 - i. Ps 23 has two lines for each verse.
 - ii. The second line in each verse, is synonymous to the 1st line or it expands on the first line's point.
 - iii. Look at the parallels in Ps 23:1-3.
 - d. "Soul" can refer to spiritual life (Ps 42:1-2).
2. "Restore" clarifies that God brought David's spiritual life back to where it should be (Ps 51:2, 10, 12; 32:5).

B. He returned David to the right path.

1. "Lead"
 - a. A shepherd did not drive his flock before him.
 - b. He walked ahead, to show them the path to follow.
2. "Paths"
 - a. Judean hills are scored w paralleling trails today.
 - b. *It looks like huge fingers have moved across the sides of the hills, gouging out pathways.*
 - c. Today family paths of shepherds date back 100's yrs..
 - d. Shepherd's take their sheep on their own paths, not on another Shepherd's paths.
 - e. They know what their breed of sheep needs.
 - f. They know where to lead them for rest, exercise, nourishment, and safety.
 - g. If there is no shepherd to follow, or if a sheep stops following their Shepherd, they get into trouble.
 - h. They fall away to a path leading them to a barren gully.
3. "Righteousness"
 - a. God always led David on a path that reflected God's own character and standards.
 - i. He directed David to display God's courage in defeating Goliath.
 - ii. He led David to keep his promise to his friend Jonathan.
 - iii. David took Jonathan's son into his own home and fed him from his table.
 - iv. God led David to lead his army to defeat all the surrounding hostile nations.
 - v. This showed the nations that God keeps His promises.
 - b. God did not lead David to lust after another man's wife (2 Sam 11:1-2).
 - i. D got off the path God put him on to lead His army.
 - ii. God though led David to confess his sins.

- iii. Sincere confession brought David forgiveness
- iv. It also put him back on track (Ps 51:17).

C. “For His name’s sake”

God led David back to the path that drew attention to God’s goodness (1 Chr 29:16-18).

II. Jesus provides for His believers’ spiritual needs today (John 10:27-28).

A. Today, Jesus provides for church age believers.

- 1. Gentile believers are now part of God’s flock with Jewish believers (John 10:16).
- 2. Today, confession provides restoration for believers.
 - a. Peter found this to be true.
 - i. He denied be a follower of Jesus three times.
 - ii. He was restored by Jesus (John 21:16, 22).
 - b. We can find this true as well (1 John 1:9; James 5:15).

B. Jesus guides us down the righteous path (John 10:27).

- 1. He leads us one step at a time.
 - a. Sheep do not get to see their next day’s route.
 - b. They are not aware of tomorrow’s delights or obstacles.
 - c. Sheep need to follow their shepherd’s lead daily.
 - d. Matthew 6:33-34
 - e. Our success in knowing where to go is staying in tune with our Shepherd.
 - f. Stay close to your Savior!
 - g. Get familiar with his voice as opposed to your own.!
- 2. He leads us on a path that’s in step with His purity, love, and wisdom (Rom 12:1-2).
 - a. God does not contradict Himself (1 Cor 7:39 2 Cor 6:14).
 - b. Graze on His words in the Bible, and He will guide you on the right path.
- 3. God wants to guide us “for His name’s sake.”
 - a. The goal of our restoration and right living is for God be better.
 - b. Jesus prayed for the world to know Him better due to our unity (John 17:21-22).
 - i. Agree on His essentials.
 - ii. Allow differences on nonessentials.
 - iii. Seek God’s love to permeate all (*John 17:21-22*).
 - c. As we follow this path, God will be seen more clearly in our community.

C. Straying believers today can be spiritually revived (1 John 1:9; Jas 5:15; Matt 6:33).