



I am the door; by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 10:9

Some would enter the fold of the body of Christ another way; however, Jesus said that He is the only door for man to enter and be saved. The question is, have you entered into the fold through Jesus? Is Jesus your good Shepherd? Is he guiding you in and out of the green pastures? The green pasture is a place of rest where the sheep can eat in peace. The sheep do not need to worry about the thieves and robbers at this point, for the Shepherd looks out for their every need. We sometimes forget that we have a great Shepherd who is eager to care for and meet everyone's needs. All we have to do is ask. Sometimes, just asking God for help is the problem that we have. It's possible that we don't think He really cares for us. Maybe we feel that He is too far away to hear us. Yet, the Shepherd is never too far away to hear his own flock of sheep. Can we say that the Lord is our Shepherd like David did in Psalms 23? What did David say about the shepherd?

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalms 23:1-3

In Psalms 23, King David tells us that the Lord is his shepherd who makes him lie down in green pastures and leads him to still waters. David also tells us that his soul is restored as the Lord leads him in the path of righteousness. This is like going on a picnic where one finds green grass to sit on near a stream to eat and relax. The atmosphere is total serenity, where one can even fall asleep on a beautiful sunny day. So peaceful, this is while lying down on the soft green grass under the shade of a tree and listening to the water run down the stream. Have you experienced this? If you have, then you will know how peaceful it can be. This is exactly the place for the sheep to be, yet we cannot always conceive this image in our own minds. We are ready to faint from the exhaustion of just trying to get to the place of rest and



peace. Our soul needs to be restored from all the things it has touched in the world we live in. We definitely need to be guided into the paths of His righteousness, and not walk in our own righteousness. Our own righteousness means nothing when compared to the great Shepherd who knows us intimately. Some may even find it an impossibility that the Shepherd already knows us.

In Psalms 139 in verse 16, David states, “thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unformed; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.” David exclaims, “How precious are your thoughts towards me, O God!” Yes, how precious are the Lord’s thoughts towards each one of us that our members were written down in His book. The good shepherd knows his sheep, and the sheep only listen to his voice to follow him. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep and does not allow any man to be plucked out of His hand. Only believers are in the fold of the Shepherd. No one is ever left out unless he willfully makes that choice. Each person has the choice to believe in the good Shepherd. It is an individual’s disbelief that keeps him or her outside the fold of the good Shepherd. Let’s look at verse 16 of John chapter 10. Jesus said that He would bring the other sheep into the fold. Jesus said, “There shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” Anyone can enter into the fold when coming through Christ by believing in Christ’s atonement.

One fold, one shepherd, one body, one spirit, and one Lord of all. Is he your Lord? Do you know what it means to be truly lost? Have you ever been lost on a trail while hiking? How about being lost in a city you are not familiar with? I had run away from home as a teenager in the city of Perth, Western Australia. There was no peace at home, and I just wanted to get away to find some peace. However, there are dangers out in the world that one can’t see ahead of time. I was physically assaulted in a park, and I cried out to God to save me. Save me he did, I stumbled around the city of Perth not knowing where I was going, and I heard his voice telling me I had to go back home. Nothing like arguing with God about the situation at home, let alone being assaulted. But that is exactly what I did. I argued with God. I told him I was lost and did not know the way back home. This was not a problem for God, as my eyes were closed and tears running down my face, He translated me back one block away to where home was. I did not see it happen, but when I opened my eyes, I knew I was in a different place from where I originally was. I just had to accept it for what it was. His voice gave me the assurance as He spoke that He would be with me and help me to bear the verbal abuse that I would receive. No one can tell me that He [God] is not interested in bringing in other sheep into the fold, for I am



one of those sheep.

Let us now take into consideration the one thing that is mentioned in John Chapter 10:10. What did Jesus say about the thief's purpose? The thief's purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy. Who is this thief that would enter into the fold or pluck one of the sheep out of the hand of the good Shepherd? Anyone who is not a believer, and anyone who lives a life of disobedience to God. Those who follow their own will or the will of another man. Those who are under the influence of the devil. Have you ever considered what the word "devil" literally means? The word "devil" means a "slanderer." A slanderer makes false and damaging statements about someone. It is a person who slanders both God and man. The devil is the fallen angel who desired others to worship him. Just look at what he told Jesus in Matthew 4:8-9. The devil told Jesus that he would give him the kingdoms in the world if Jesus would only bow down and worship him. In verse 10, Jesus said, "Be gone! Satan: for it is written, "Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Be careful to whom you follow or worship. The devil left Jesus, and the angels came and ministered unto him [see verse 11 of Matthew chapter 4].

Each of us is to remember the words spoken in the Bible and pray for understanding as to their meaning. Jesus knew the Father. To know is to have knowledge and recognition of something. It is more than just to know about a person. It is believing in that person for who they are as an individual. Building trust with that person is the key to fellowship. Can we have that same kind of trust in God? King David had that kind of trust in God, in that he believed in God's goodness and mercy. He knew that each person had their appointed time here on earth. He knew that God would see him through troubled times. David also knew when he was at fault. That is why we pray that we would not be led into temptation, but out of temptation, and from the evil one [see Luke 11:3].

We must remember that we are kept by the power of God through faith. And faith is believing in who Jesus is. Salvation and healing are in the atonement through Christ Jesus. Therefore, the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if [they] have committed any sins, they shall be forgiven [see James 5:15]. We draw near to the Shepherd of Love in humble obedience, knowing He will see to our needs. All things are within the Shepherd's capable hands. It is the meek who shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace [see Psalms 37:11]. Our path is in the Lord's hand, and He is our Shepherd. Nothing is withheld that the Lord is not generous if we but ask Him for help. He helps us and instructs us



through the word [the Bible]. Put your trust in his word and draw near to the Shepherd that you may declare His works. Trust Him to guide you in and out of green pastures so that your soul may be restored to living in love and peace. Ask the Lord for help and declare the work He has done in your life. Allow His spirit to fully restore your body, soul, and spirit today in Jesus' name. Always pray without ceasing, rebuke the devil, and He shall flee from you.

It is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

Psalms 73:28

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