

Words and Wires on the 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

Out of the darkness of my fear and anxiety rises my understanding of God's all-encompassing promise, showing me His gentle care for all of us, linked together in the presence of loaves, fishes, apples and oranges, our symbolic sustenance.

He maketh me lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Out of the turbulence of my rushing, disturbed river of confusion, God shows me the steps to the still lake of calm belief and the gentle slopes of peace and rest from my distress.

He restoreth my soul:

God sees the fragments of my soul lying about, and gathers them in smooth, gentle, and binding motions to bring them back together, helping me move upward in His presence.

He leadeth me beside the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

My insecurity and anxiety prevent me from discerning alone the true path of God's way from those that would take me out and about into the dead ends of frustration. God points instead to the path of the good life, and helps me walk along His way.

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

While I must pass along ever-narrowing paths, in darkness and past sharp things that would hurt me, I do so without the fear of personal failure and the unknowns of death.

For thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Even in the grip of exhaustion and illness, God's tools pass into human hands to give me healing and comfort.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

God gives me a safe place from which I can make His wisdom known, even when confronted by those who would deliver judgment, deceit, deception, and manipulation.

Thou annointest my head with oil;

God's spirit is not a myth to me. I feel His presence in my life just as I would feel the warm hands of one who loves me soothing my mind with a healing and gentle touch.

My cup runneth over.

My life is indeed filled with connected and intricate blessings, more than I could ever need, given so that I can carry them to others.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

I understand this well.

God's goodness to me has been given through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, on the cross.

God's mercy has been given to me through my acceptance of Jesus, and Jesus' acceptance of God, all centered in God's worldly manifestations by the four ends of the cross as Father, Mother, Son, and Spirit.

God's acceptance of me as His child has been given to me through His church, prepared for me by Christ, translated for my understanding by Luther, and opened for me and others by God alone, for as long as I believe eternity to be.

The 23rd Psalm is taken from the King James version of the Bible. The copper wire abstractions, and the interpretations of the verses of the Psalm accompanying them, are prepared as physical representations of what I mentally visualize as I recite these verses.

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