

Entering into God’s Rest

Part 2 of 3

Jesus is Our Shepherd’s Rest

In Part 1 we learned that God’s rest is multi-faceted. Today we look at a different kind of rest.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me. Your rod and Your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely Your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.” — Psalms 23 NLT

The times that I have heard Psalms 23 recited, it was most often related to facing death, such as when read at a funeral. Its message can leave me with a somber feeling. Yes, the message is appropriate for the passing of a loved one and gives hope to those who grieve. However, there is another spiritual application that I want to convey. *There is a different kind of funeral!* Galatians 2:20 tells us that a genuine believer is crucified with Christ. *“It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”* When we die to the passions of our old nature, He gives us a new life that springs forth in resurrection power.

How does our “death to this world” relate to Psalms 23? When we die to the cares and concerns this world offers, Jesus becomes our shepherd and we are the sheep of His pasture—our cares and concerns are met in Him, for He is our good Shepherd! This is not a somber message! Read this aloud with an upbeat, joyful tone: Jesus is my comfort in my distresses; He is my divine protection in my fear; He prepares a feast for me when famine is all around; Jesus gives me His anointing for my mission; He fills me to overflowing with blessings and goodness; Jesus pursues me even when I fail Him because His love never fails, and best of all, because Jesus is my Shepherd, He promises that *“I will live in the house of the Lord forever.”*

“I am the good shepherd; I know My own sheep, and they know Me, just as My Father knows Me and I know the Father. So, I sacrifice My life for the sheep.” — John 10:14-16 NLT

Think about the things we strive for in this life. Peace? Security? Acceptance? Love? Belonging? Value? Provision? Every human being has these needs, and we cannot thrive in this life without these essential needs being met. That is why we go to great lengths and effort to fulfill them to some measure. Yet, these are the promises and blessings of Psalms 23 that we have in Jesus. As our Shephard, Jesus fulfills all the things we strive for. To me, this is the greatest definition of how to enter into God’s rest.

Here is the question of the day: If you could have all of these vital needs provided for you, what would you be willing to give in exchange for the peace and rest they portend? It has been said, “The salvation¹ that Jesus offers is free, but it will cost you your life.”—there must be a burial and a resurrection! Jesus said it this way, *“If you refuse to take up your cross and follow Me, you*

¹ The salvation that Jesus offers is defined by the Greek Word, *Sozo*, which means to have His peace, to have rest in Him, and to made whole in Him.

are not worthy of being Mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for Me, you will find it.”

King David prophetically spoke of Jesus when he penned these words, *“He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams.”* This could not be any more clear—as believers we find our rest in Jesus. Entering God’s rest is part of the abundant life He offers. Entering God’s rest is not only liberating, but ushers you into a deep sense of peace and security—peace that will transcend your natural understanding, far exceeding anything you could think or ask.

Charles Spurgeon said this: *“Jesus can make you to lie down in green pastures, and lead you beside still waters. When you make Jesus your Shepherd, you willingly lie down at His feet. There is no love like His, neither earth nor heaven can match it.”*

Summary: Here we discovered that Psalms 23 graphically illustrates another facet of how to enter God’s rest—we become His sheep. King David turns our attention to the spiritual implications of entering God’s rest as he prophetically points to Jesus. David’s revelation tells us that as we trust in Jesus, *“...and give up our life for Him,”* we are like sheep who are free from our earthly striving to find rest. It is in Jesus, our Shepherd, that we find true rest.

 Information and Revelation  Application and Transformation
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Heavenly Father, thank You for the rest I have in You. Thank You for looking ahead in time and knowing my need for a savior, for You sent Jesus to save me and deliver me from my sin and the guilt it produces. You wanted me to rest from my fruitless struggles to please You—You came to set me free!

LORD, thank You for the green meadows and peaceful streams that give me rest. Thank You for renewing my strength when I become weary in my striving. Thank You for leading me in paths of righteousness so that I honor You with my life. Thank You for Your comfort and peace in my dark hours of fear. Thank You for Your protection, comfort and provision when the enemy of my soul seeks to do me harm. Thank You for anointing me so that I may honorably live out Your Word before the people in my life. Thank You for Your blessings and unfailing love that pursue after me. Thank You for Your love that carries me and lifts me up, giving me a joyful countenance that glorifies You. Thank You for securing my everlasting eternity, knowing that I will spend it with You as I dwell in Your house forever.

LORD, thank You for calling my name and leading me to the cross of Jesus, for without that call there would be no resurrection power in my life. And without my resurrection there would be no authority to live above sin and to live my new life in You.

LORD, thank You for Your liberating rest that ushers me into a deep sense of peace and security—peace that transcends my natural understanding, far exceeding anything I could think or ask. Thank You for Jesus, my Shepherd, in whom I find true rest. I gratefully give You thanks and lift up these petitions in the name of my precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to Your glory. Amen.

By David E McFadden© 2026

“Let’s Make Disciples Together!”