1 Peter 2:25 “For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

**What makes Jesus the good Shepherd?**

* He Gave His Life- John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

**How can we trust Jesus the Shepherd of our souls in hard times?**

1. **Trust God’s Love for us.**

* *The Love of God seeks us and pays for our sin’s punishment!*
* Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
* *Why do we go astray from God?*
* *What does sin deceive us?*
* *What did God do for sinners?*
* *Why did God do this for us?*
* *What can separate you from God’s love?*
* Romans 8:35 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
* Don’t walk away from God’s love!

1. **Trust the power of God.**
2. **Power to keep you** - Jude 1:24 “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,
3. **Power to teach you** - John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you
4. **Power over all things –** Jeremiah 27:5 “I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.
5. **Power to heal you** – Matthew 11:4-6 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.
6. **Power over Nature** – Mark 4:41 “ And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?
7. **Power over Kingdoms -** Romans 13:1 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.
8. **Power over Finances** - Psalms 50:10 “For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

1. **Trust the comfort of God!**
2. Psalms 43:5 “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.
3. **When we have heavy burdens on us Jesus will comfort us!**

Mat 11:28 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

1. **We don’t run to the things in this world for Comfort, Clarity and Control, we run to Jesus!**

Psalms 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

**The reward of the Shepherd –**

* 1 Peter 5:4 “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
* God blesses now on earth and in Heaven!
* God gift to all that are putting real faith in Him!
* 1 Timothy 1:16 “Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.