

As David took inventory of his sheep, he thought to himself...

"You know, my sheep have it made. They live in the land of plenty when they are with me. They have everything that they need. They are led to feed and lie down in the greenest of pastures. They never thirst, because I lead them along peaceful streams. My sheep truly love me. Even in times of trouble and uncertainty, they don't have to fear because I am right beside them. I will protect them from their enemies. My sheep are truly blessed for they dwell in the house of their master."

As David pondered these things, he came to realize that what he does for his sheep is only a dim reflection of what God has done for him.

Psalm 23 - A Psalm of David.

- 1 *The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.*
- 2 *He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.*
- 3 *He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.*
- 4 *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*
- 5 *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.*
- 6 *Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

What house do you live in?

- Vs 1 – Do you live in a house of longing or satisfaction? Are you always seeking and searching for satisfaction in things, but you always seem to never be completely satisfied? You may move on to the next thing, only to be let down again.
- Vs 2 – Do you live in a house of panic or a house of peace? Is your life a constant whirl wind of drama where you are stressed all the time? Worried and anxious, do you long for peace but it seems out of reach?
- Vs 3 – Do you live in a house of ruin or a house of restoration? Do you feel that all hope is gone for you? You may feel that you have made too many mistakes, burned too many bridges, or let too many people down. Do you feel that you let God down?
- Vs 4 – Do you live in a house of death or a house of life? Do you feel that your life isn't worth living? Is there sickness or a diagnosis that is weighing on your life? Do you fear what happens after death?
- Vs 5 – Do you live in a house of abuse or a house of victory? Do you feel overlooked or that you have been taken advantage of? Do you feel isolated and empty? Do you sense condemnation that everyone is looking down on you?
- Vs 6 – Do you live in a house of evil or a house of good? Do you feel that evil follows you, and you can't catch a break in life? Do you feel that every decision you make is the wrong decision? Do you sense that you don't have anything good to offer?

If these things characterize your life, then you are living in the wrong house! This is not what it looks like to dwell in the house of the Lord! Notice how this house is associated with feelings, but the house of the Lord is associated with promises! Here's what it is like to dwell in the house of the Lord.

- Vs 1 – The house of the Lord is a house of satisfaction where your joy and purpose are wrapped up in knowing the Lord as your Shepherd!
- Vs 2 - The house of the Lord is a place of peace and a place of plenty! These things are not provided by your constant longing but simply by following the Shepherd.
- Vs 3 – The house of the Lord is a house of restoration and recovery! Broken relationships can be mended in this house. Bad choices and decisions can be forgiven and replaced by faithful obedience. In this house, there are 70x7 chances!
- Vs 4 – The house of the Lord is a house of life — eternal abundant life! There is no fear in death in the house of the Lord because the Good Shepherd has conquered death!
- Vs 5 – The house of the Lord is a house of victory! The banquet table is set for the victory celebration. While the enemy looks on in disbelief, protection and comfort is provided in the house of the Lord.
- Vs 6 – The house of the Lord is a house of love and mercy! The Good Shepherd overcomes evil with good to conquer it once and for all!

So, what house are you going to dwell in? If you want to dwell in the house of the Lord, you must be willing to surrender to the Lord. Can you say with confidence, "The Lord is My Shepherd"?

If you can, then you can also say with confidence, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
I hope this blesses you.