

A want-free life

Introduction

Have you ever wondered what a *want-free* life would be like ... a life where all your needs are met? ... where you wanted for absolutely nothing?

I got a taste of want-free living when I joined the Australian Air Force... aged 18.

Seriously, I could have been empty handed and completely naked when I enlisted--in an instant, all my needs were met!

- Housing, clothing, food, medical, training, salary, and travel expenses.
- For the first time in my life, I had no needs... I was living the dream!

There's a well-known 'OT' character who testified of 'living the dream' by declaring "*I have everything I need.*" His name was David.

- David was a 16-year-old shepherd boy when he was anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next king of Israel, after Saul.
- Psalm 23 is David's testimony of God's provision over his life on earth in and through all his challenges.

Psalm 23 David declared...

- v 1. *The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.*
- v 2. *He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams.*
- v 3. *He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name.*
- v 4. *Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*
- v 5. *You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You welcome me as a guest, anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.*
- v 6. *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.*

Psalm 23 highlights six essential needs of a 'want-free' life...

- 1. Nourishment:** In verse 2, David said, "*He (The Lord) lets me rest in green meadows.*"
 - Isaiah 40 ... "*He (the Sovereign Lord) will feed his flock like a shepherd*" (v 11).
 - Ezekiel 34 ... "*For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep... I will give them good pastureland... there they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in lush mountain pastures*" (vv. 11, 14).

Nourishment, plus...

- 2. Restoration:** In verses 2 and 3, David said, "*He (the Lord) leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength.*"
 - Isaiah says, "*Those who wait on the Lord will find new strength*" (40:31).

- Second Corinthians says, *“Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day”* (4:16).
- 1 John says, *“If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong”* (1:9).

Friends, nothing zaps the strength from us, more than sin.

Nourishment + Restoration, plus...

3. Guidance: In verse 3, David says, *“He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name.”*

- Proverbs ... *“Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths”* (3:6).
- Isaiah quotes God as saying, *“I will lead [you] down a new path, guiding you along an unfamiliar way. I will make the darkness bright before you and smooth-out the road ahead of you. Yes, I will indeed do these things; I will not forsake you”* (42:16).
- Psalms 119 ... *“Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path”* (v 105).
- James ... *“If you need wisdom – if you want to know what God wants you to do – ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent you asking”* (1:5).

Nourishment + Restoration + Guidance, plus...

4. Protection: In verse 4, David said, *“Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.”*

- Isaiah ... *“God will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart”* (40:11).
- In the Book of John, Jesus said, *“I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”* (10:11).
 - Impending threat has to first get past the Lord before it can harm us!
- Jesus also said, *“My sheep recognise my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. So, no one can take them from me.”* (Jn. 10:27-29).
 - Although we are constantly stalked by danger, at all times we are protected by God from all harm.

Nourishment + Restoration + Guidance + Protection, plus...

5. Provision: In verse 5, David said, *“God, You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You welcome me as a guest, anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.”*

- Psalm 16, David said, *“Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing”* (v 5).
- Matthew said in his gospel account, *“He (God) will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern”* (6:33).

- Paul said in Philippians 4, *“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus”* (v 19).

Nourishment + Restoration + Guidance + Protection + Provision, plus...

6. Endless Love: David said in verse 6, *“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.”*

- Psalm 25... *“The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all those who keep his covenant and obey his decrees”* (v 10).
- Psalm 63 ... *“Your unfailing love is better to me than life itself”* (v3).
- Psalm 103 ... *“The love of the Lord remains forever with those who fear him”* (v 1).

Final thoughts

A ‘want-free’ life is available to any person who knows and follows the Good Shepherd!

No one can ever boast, *“I shall not want,”* unless they are declaring, *“The Lord is my Shepherd.”*

- It’s not enough to know about the Shepherd ... one must *know* Him.

In the Book of John, Jesus prayed... [Father] *“This is the way to have eternal life – to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ...”* (17:3).

Q: How can a person know the Good Shepherd?

A: In the Book of Acts, in his open-air sermon on the Day of Pentecost, Peter told the crowd of multi-national listeners how to get-right with God. He said to them...

1. **Repent of your sins, and turn to God,**
2. **Believe in Jesus** (this was already assumed by the listeners),
3. **Be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins, and
4. **Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit** (2:38).

I once lived a life of endless wants... never fully satisfied. However, encountering Christ changed all of that. My life now declares “I shall not want!” Seriously, I am enjoying a want-free life.

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