

Following the Leading of the Good Shepherd

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Psalm 23

Text: Psalm 23:1-3, Psalm 37:23

King David, the man who ruled Israel for 40 years and subdued all the enemies of God's people likened himself to a lamb that was totally dependent on the Lord to provide for his needs, protect him wherever he went, bring peace to his anxious heart, and restore his wounded soul.

The fifth divine promise from the Lord is supernatural **guidance**. The Spirit of God Himself lives inside of you and is always ready to lead and direct us in the way we should go. "He leads me in the paths of **righteousness** for His name's sake". Just as a shepherd directs his flock where to go and where not to go, Jesus cares about us and desires to lead us through all of life.

God is completely **committed** to giving us guidance and direction in our lives. When we give our lives to Christ we no longer wander aimlessly through life. There is always a direction and a purpose for where He is leading us.

Psalm 32:8, Psalm 37:23 (NLT), Psalm 73:24(NLT), Proverbs 3:5-6

Of all the ways in which God speaks to us and directs our steps, the Bible is **foundational** to them all. He has graciously given us His Word so we can know His mind, His will, and His ways. **Psalm 119:105** Foundations are the substance necessary for firm, established footing. Through God's Word, our paths are confirmed and made clear.

We have also been blessed with the priceless gift of His Holy Spirit to lead us through life.

John 16:13 The word 'guide' in this verse is the Greek word 'hodegos'. It is taken from the word 'hodas', the term for a road. When hodas becomes hodegos, it describes one who knows all the roads. Essentially, it is the Greek word for a tour guide — one who shows a traveler the **safest** course through an unknown country. This is a guide who knows the safest, fastest, and most pleasurable route to take. We are going where He has already been.

We are promised that He will lead us in the paths of righteousness. His paths, **good** paths, adventurous paths, paths that are peaceful, purposeful and that line up with His will for our lives.

This word 'hodegos', translated here as guide, is the same word used to describe a guide for the **blind**. If someone was blind, they had to put all their trust in their guide to lead them safely and correctly to where they needed to go. By using this word, Jesus is saying, "Let the Holy Spirit be your **eyes**. Trust Him. He is the Spirit of truth and is able to see what you cannot see. He will never lead you astray."

Remember that we are walking by **faith**. **2 Corinthians 5:7, 2 Corinthians 4:18**

Our walk of faith is not a walk of **blind** faith. It is complete trust in the one we know even if He is the God we do not see. **John 20:29**

It is no accident that Jesus chose the word hodegos (guide) to describe the work of the Holy Spirit. He is the greatest tour guide you will ever have. He knows what is in front of you because He has already been where He is leading you. He knows all the roads and the best routes to take and the ones you need to avoid. If you let Him lead, He will help you avoid countless demonic attacks and take you on the most exciting, most enjoyable journey ever! **Deuteronomy 31:8**

If you are a born-again child of God, you have His guarantee to be led by His Spirit. **Romans 8:14** In order to be led you must be a willing follower. The word ‘led’ here is the Greek word ‘ago’, which means to lead.

This word was used to depict animals led by a rope tied around their necks, and they followed wherever their owner led them. The owner would simply “tug” or “pull” on the rope, and the animal followed. What’s interesting is that this word ago — translated here as “led” — forms the root for the Greek word ‘agon’, which describes an intense conflict, such as a struggle in a wrestling match or a struggle of the human will. One of the greatest battles or conflicts in our life is maintaining a willingness to follow the leading of the Lord. “Your will be done”.

Remember that God’s promise is to give direction to the righteous. It is only the righteous who can be led in paths of righteousness. **Psalm 37:23 (AMP)** Righteous people are those who choose to believe and obey God. God promises to direct and establish the steps of the righteous. God actually delights in doing this. He enjoys it.

~ God can’t order and direct the steps that you don’t take. Once you have prayed and asked for direction you can no longer stand still.

There are two promises that God makes to us. He will lead us and guide us. When He is leading us, He is out front going before us. Our job is to follow. When He is guiding us, He is behind us. Our job is to listen. **Isaiah 30:21** Learning to do both is important.

The opposite of righteousness is wickedness. Abraham walked in the blessing of God because He was righteous, He trusted God and obeyed God. God promises to bless and establish the walk of the righteous. There is no such promise for those who are not righteous.

2 Samuel 22:33-34, Psalm 1:1-4, Matthew 5:1-12

The best time to learn how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit is early in life. It is one of the very best things you can train your children to do. Even if you are further along in age, you can still learn how to listen and submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit. The more you obediently follow His gentle tug or pull, the less of a struggle it will be. He will show you what to say and what not to say — what to do and what not to do. He will protect you from danger and help you make the best decisions in whatever circumstance you face.

The Lord is your Shepherd who leads you in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. When you obediently follow Him and experience success, it brings glory to the name of Jesus.