

Supernatural Confidence

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Psalm 23

Text: Psalm 23:1-4a, Jeremiah 17:7, Hebrews 10:35-36, Hebrews 13:6, 1 John 5:14

God, our Shepherd, promises to be with us and never leave us. Having a heart revelation of His continual abiding presence releases the gift of supernatural confidence in us.

One of the greatest promises God has made to us as believers is to be with us at all times.

- When Jacob came to Bethel, God appeared to him in a dream. **Genesis 28:15**
 - After Moses died, God spoke to Joshua, **Joshua 1:5**
 - Just before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He encouraged His disciples. **Matthew 28:20**
- What God promised Jacob, Joshua, and the disciples, He also promises to us. Remember, He has no favorites and does not show partiality. **Acts 10:34**

Psalm 23 was written by David after he transitioned into his role as the anointed king of Israel. After many years of ruthlessly being hunted down by King Saul, he was able to look back on God's faithfulness to protect him and provide for him through some of the darkest hours of his life. Psalm 23 is David's declaration of the Lord's unrivalled dependability. **Psalm 37:25**

The primary definition for the word 'confidence' is a trusting, or reliance; an assurance of mind or firm belief in the integrity, stability or veracity of another, or in the truth and reality of a fact.

Since the beginning of time, people have placed their confidence in all sorts of things, including money, material possessions, education, personal connections, the government, and even themselves. Although all of these are helpful and needed in some way to make it through life, they are fleeting and unreliable. Only one thing is unchanging and reliable at all times, through all circumstances, through all generations, and that is God.

It's important to notice that David didn't say, "Even though I camp out [or live] in the valley of the shadow of death...." He said that he walked through the valley. The valley of the shadow of death is a part of the journey not the destination. When you read the history of David's life it becomes quite clear that he endured many hardships throughout his life. Yet through all his dark moments, he continued to place his hope and trust in the Lord, his Shepherd. God desires that we do the same. Whether you are experiencing challenges in your marriage, your family, your finances, on your job, or with your health, God is with you every step of the way. Like David, you are not staying in that troublesome place – you are walking through it.

The book of Psalms is a picture of intimate dependence on God. **Romans 15:4** God has given us His Word as a source of wisdom and instruction. David's words in the Psalms, many of which he wrote during the dark seasons of his life, are a priceless resource from which we can learn and receive comfort and hope as we walk through our own times of trouble. They are not only a resource for times of trouble but for every season of our lives. When we are in times of green pasture, we can be there in safety and confidence not needing to concern ourselves with what the next season holds.

- God is our **shield** against the wicked. **Psalm 5:12, Psalm 17:8-9, 13**
God promises to be a shield of favor that surrounds you and protects you against evil attacks.
- God is our **rock**. **Psalm 18:1-2**
Over and over throughout the psalms, David often prayed, “Lord, set me upon a rock.” The reason for this request was that by being set upon a rock, he was placed high above and out of the reach of his enemies. Another phrase David often proclaimed was, “Lord, You are my rock and my fortress.” This was David’s declaration of trust in God, and it can be ours as well that God is the ultimate **stronghold** of safety in times of trouble. When God is your fortress and stronghold the enemy cannot have a stranglehold on your life.
- You can **call** on the Lord anytime. **Psalm 18:3, 6, 19, 36**
When you feel like your feet are slipping off the path and you can’t seem to get any traction, you can pray to the Lord as David did, and He will enable you to regain your footing
- God will **frustrate** the plans of the wicked. David was no stranger to the schemes of Satan working through evil men. Yet he remained confident in the Lord. The plans of the wicked never succeeded against David because of the Lord’s divine intervention.
Psalm 21:11, Psalm 22:19, Psalm 27:1 The confidence he had in the Lord is certainly evident in verses like these.
- The Lord is a mighty **deliverer**. **Psalm 31:1-4**
In David’s mind, only the Lord could successfully deliver him from all the traps the enemy had set. History reveals that he was never disappointed. God always came through for him, and He will always come through for you.
- The Lord is our **hiding** place. **Psalm 31:20, Psalm 32:7**
When David saw trouble coming, he would ask the Lord to hide him out of the sight of his enemies. We can pray and ask the Lord to protect us from the verbal assaults people bring against us.
- Our steps are **directed** by God. **Psalm 37:23-24**
Even when you go through difficult times, God is still at work directing your steps and straightening out the path before you. Even when we mess up, God is holding us up with His mighty hand of strength. **Isaiah 41:10**
- God is worthy of our **trust**. **Psalm 56:2-4**
There is no way David could repeatedly make such a bold statement unless he had a supernatural confidence that the Lord was truly for him. Through all of life’s experiences, he had learned no one could stand against him because God was standing with him.
- God is a God of great **mercy**. **Psalm 57:1-7**
If there are people talking about you — or digging a trap for you to fall in — you can be confident that they themselves will be ensnared by their words and fall into the very pit they have dug for you. Through all of this, David remained stable. He had fixed his heart on God — determined to hold tightly to God’s promises.

- The Lord will hear and answer our cry. **Psalm 61:1-4, Psalm 71:1-3**

- Fixing your heart on God is the key to victory. **Psalm 112:7, Psalm 34:19**
In this life we are going to experience trouble and even tribulation. Jesus Himself told us this in John 16:33. But with His next breath, He proclaimed, "...But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." David experiences times of fear? Most definitely. But he learned to focus on the Lord, his Shepherd, not on the problems. David's words show us the care of our Good Shepherd whose influence transcends even the worst that life can throw at us. Although being a follower of Jesus does not make us exempt from the challenges of life, our Good Shepherd is an ever-present help in time of need — and He carries a rod for dealing with our enemies.

Get your focus off your enemies and the problems all around you and fix your heart and mind on Jesus, your Good Shepherd. Learn to put your trust in God and His Word moment by moment, day by day. He has not failed you in the past, and He will not fail you in the future.

Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 4:8