

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need



When we do not have, we look for reasons. We want to say it is because we have not been given, or because we have not asked correctly, or because we have not been what we should have been. In truth, we have a faithful God, who promises that our needs are met, who treats us as His children, more than even honored guests, welcoming us into His presence as if we deserved to be there. We do not have because we do not take.

Listen to the promise of God again, from four different perspectives, as you hear of God's everlasting provision from the King James, the Good News, the Living, and Isaac Watts' beautiful paraphrase found in this hymn. Open your eyes and stretch out your hand. Come and see that the Lord is good. If we do not have, it is because we do not take.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. *Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything that I need.* My shepherd will supply my need. Jehovah is His name.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. *He makes me lie in meadows green and leads me beside the quiet stream.* In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream.

He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised. *He restores my failing health. He helps me to do what honors Him the most.* He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways and leads me for His mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me. *Even when walking through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way.* When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay. One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim. *You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as your special guest. Blessings overflow!* Thy hand in sight of all my foes doth still my table spread. My cup with blessing overflows. Thine oil anoints my head.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life. I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life. Your *goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of my life.* The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days.

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. And your house will be my home as long as I live. *And afterwards, I shall live with you forever in your home.* O may thy house be mine abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come, no more a stranger nor a guest but like a child at home.