



## BOS Monthly Letter of Hope

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### My Go to Scripture

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I believe every Christian should have their go to scripture for every issue in life! For me, Psalm 23 is “My Go to Scripture.” I learned Psalm 23 when I was a little girl living in the projects on the eastside of Baltimore, Maryland. After hearing my mom, step dad and a few of their friends debating over who was quoting it correctly, I took it upon myself to find out who was right. The reason why I wanted to know it for myself was because I liked what I was hearing. I’ll never forget the feeling I had when I secretly took our family bible in my bedroom and began searching for Psalm 23. I cried as I read it and absorbed every word. After reading it three times, I had memorized it and it has become my source of comfort throughout my life.

Even now when I hear or say “The Lord is my shepherd”, my heart feels as though it gets warm and there are loving arms holding me. The, “I shall not want” part gives me the assurance that no matter what I’m standing in need of my shepherd will provide. “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures”, lets me know that although things may be spinning out of control right now, I, your shepherd will fix it so you can rest in the comfort that only I can provide. “He leadeth me beside the still waters”, tells me that my Father in Heaven, Jesus Christ has me by the hand guiding me along life’s journey causing whatever trial or situation I may find myself in to flow in a way that will not overtake me.

“He restoreth my soul”, is God’s awesome promise of love that my hurt and despair will not last. “He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake”, is my Good Shepherd, God The Father, God The Son and God The Holy Spirit proclaiming to me, that because I asked Him to take up residence inside of me, my life and ALL that happens in it, is for the world to see how a child of God handles adversities. The fact that I confess His name is the driving factor that will allow me to come out on top.

“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,” is The Lord letting me know that I will experience the deaths of loved ones and I too will one day pass away but, I don’t have to be afraid of death, because Jesus is right there with me, as well as with those I love who accepted Him as Lord and Savior, giving us comfort and comforting those we love.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.” Now, this part of Psalm 23 has always, from day one, ministered to me in a way that has kept me through every trial in my life, good or bad, that I am very important to God. It doesn’t matter who is for me or against me, who loves me or does not love me, who

supports me or does not support me or who stays with me or leaves me. What I know in my heart is my Good Shepherd takes time out of ALL that He does, in keeping the world on its axis and making sure that we all are not vaporized because of sin, to come to my aid to give me everything I need and to show everyone, even my enemies, that I'm a conqueror and He loves me.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” This is the icing on the cake, Jesus, putting His seal of approval on the fact that, although I will suffer heartaches, I will experience great joy as well. This verse has assured me over the years that I will live in peace and love so much that it will follow me everywhere I go. It lets me know that life is still great and there is still so much beauty left to experience and share with others. Then, when it's all said and done, I have the blessed assurance, peace and comfort that I will live forever with my Jesus in heaven.

Yes, everyone should have their very own go to scripture that will hold them through the hard times of life when tragedy strikes. If you don't have one, I suggest you get one! If nothing is coming to your mind right now, Psalm 23 is a great place to start.