

Introduction:

The question in life is not, “**Will** we go through difficult times?”

The question in life is, “**How** will we go through them?”

- Will we go through them alone?
- Will we keep a stiff upper lip?
- Will we be crushed under their weight?
- Will we give up in despair?
- Will we go into denial?
- Will we become bitter and resentful?
- Will we “pretend” to protect others?

OR

Will we experience the **peace** and **power** of God in ways one could never imagine?

A song of comfort for those in crisis:

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

³he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**Discovering the secret of David's unshakable confidence in the
midst of crisis:**

1. I shall not be in want . . .

. . . because the Shepherd _____ all my needs.

2. I will fear no evil . . .

. . . because the Shepherd _____ me from all evil.

3. I will dwell in the house of the Lord . . .

. . . because the Shepherd _____ me an abundant
life now, and forever.

How can you experience God's peace and power in your situation today?

Understand that . . .

... We are all sheep.

... Every sheep needs a shepherd.

... Jesus wants to be your shepherd today.

²⁸"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

A prayer of faith:

Today, I ask You, Jesus, to be my Shepherd. I ask You to **provide** for my needs and **protect** me from evil. Today, I "take You up" on Your **promise** of an abundant life.

I ask You to forgive my sins and let me dwell in Your house forever.

Today, I surrender my life to Your wise and good leadership. Make **me the person you want me to be.**

Signed