

# **The Work of the Shepherd: Maturing the Sheep**



# Psalm 23:1-4

1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. 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.

# Christ is the Chief Shepherd

A pastor's job is to be the "under-shepherd" to help bring the sheep to maturity.



# First Step: Salvation Brings Us into the Flock

Salvation brings completeness spiritually, psychologically, and physically.

**Matthew 1:21**

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.

# Next Step: The Shepherd Gives Comfort-Assurance of Salvation

Unless a man has assurance of his salvation, it is impossible for him to progress towards maturity.

## 1 John 5 Gives Signs of Salvation:

- |            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Verse 1    | Love for Others            |
| Verses 2&3 | Obedience to God's Word    |
| Verses 4&5 | Victory Over the World     |
| Verses 7&8 | The Spirit's Witness in Us |

# Next Step: Abiding in Christ-My Sheep Know My Voice

Our lives need to continue in a relationship with Christ.

**John 15:1-4:** In our lives, Christ has to be the center

**John 15:7:** God's Word Abides in Us

**John 15:7:** Prayer

**John 15:10:** Obedience

**John 15:16:** Fruit

# Next Step: Walking in the Spirit- The Shepherd Leads in Paths of Righteousness

As we walk in the Spirit, we develop the fruit of the Spirit.

## Galatians 5:22-23

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

# Next Step: Standing Against Satan-The Protection of the Shepherd

Paul tells us to be strong in the Lord and put on the full armor of God.

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

# Next Step: Adding to Your Faith- The Shepherd Desires Growth of the Flock

Continue to Develop Godly Character

**2 Peter 1:5-12**

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

<sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

<sup>7</sup> and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

**Where are you in this  
process of maturity?**

