

Our Source of Certainty  
In Uncertain Times (Part 3):

*The Lord Guides Us*

Psalm 23:3

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He makes me lie down in green pastures.*

*He leads me beside still waters.*

*He restores my soul.*

*He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake. (Psalm 23:1-3)*

# I. The Lord Guides Us in the Right Direction

*He leads me in paths of righteousness*  
(v.3b)

A. The Lord guides us in the right direction because we naturally go the wrong direction.

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have  
turned—every one—to his own way  
(Isaiah 53:6a).*

David describes God's way in v. 3 as  
*paths of righteousness* or more literally  
*right paths*.

*For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. (Philippians 2:13, NIV)*

*God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. (1 Thess.4:3-5, NLT)*

*God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.*

*(1 Thess.4:7-8, NLT)*

B. The Lord guides us in the right direction through His Word, prayer, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Lord guides us through His Word.

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light  
for my path. (Psalms 119:105)*

## 2. The Lord guides us through prayer.

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.*

*Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.*

*(Psalm 25:4-5)*

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him (James 1:5).*

3. The Lord guides us through the Holy Spirit.

“We must not only have revelation from outside, namely, the Bible; we must also have transformation from the inside by the Holy Spirit. The word of God and the Spirit of God together provide the leadership we need.

“The word and the Spirit team up to transform the mind, and in that way God leads us in paths of righteousness. He gradually shapes our thinking and molds our emotions, so that when there is no explicit command in the Bible to guide us, we weigh all the considerations with the wisdom and the love of God, and we are drawn to the path of righteousness.”

“So I have learned to do like David:  
meditate on God’s word day and night and  
pray continually for the work of the Holy  
Spirit in my heart and mind.”

- John Piper

## II. The Lord Guides Us for the Ultimate Purpose

*He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake (v.3b)*

1. He guides us for our good.

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom.8:28)*

2. He guides us for other people's good.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Cor.1:3-4)*

3. He guides us for His name's sake.

*He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.*

“Whatever most glorifies God results in our greatest good. These two realities—God’s glory and our good—are never at odds or in competition with each other. They work in perfect harmony with each other. That which most glorifies Him is what works for our greatest good.”

- Steven Lawson