

Walking Through Life's Seasons With The Good Shepherd (Ps. 23)

Grace to you dearly beloved

We are in that time of year when we wish ourselves and our loved ones a happier and more successful, rewarding, pleasurable and peaceful year.

Surely God can exceed every expectation of our heart, however we know that life is in flux with so much ebbs and flows. Some seasons are more pleasant and thrilling than others. Some seasons are outright strangely tough and seemingly meaningless!

King David, the most godly and successful Israelite king in the Bible and forebear of our Lord Jesus Christ (according to human genealogy) had a full taste of all the seasons of life. He had full doze of rejection from his children and friends, attacked by close acquaintances and surrounded by implacable enemies on all sides. He dealt with health issues and consequences of personal failures. Yet David retained an unshakable faith in God as he journeyed through good and bad seasons of life. He knew and enjoyed God's presence and friendship. By the Spirit of God, David left us a godly legacy in Psalm 23 on how to walk with God through the three key seasons of life.

The pasturelands season (verse 1-3). These are the ordinary and refreshing times in life when God is renewing and leading us. Nothing outstanding is happening, but we know that God is present. We should keep in mind that it is not our brilliance that brings us to such a place. You are just a sheep on a journey with the Good Shepherd that knows the right path He mapped out for you, and that your times are in His safe hands. He knows how to refresh and return your soul to equilibrium. Enjoy every bit of this season with no apology.

The "shadowlands" season (verse 4). These are the dark, even tragic times when nothing seems to be going right and everything is tough with no rhyme or reason.

When God's presence feels more like His absence. Fear not, He has promised never to leave or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). In complete trust and total surrender, you will know that He is God (Psalm 46:10). His authority will be your strength and peace.

The "tablelands" season (verse 5-6). Times of great victory and great celebration. Real mountaintop-under-the-glory-cloud season. Here the Lord becomes your delicious feast and you are dripping with the fragrance of the Holy Spirit. The hordes of darkness do not frighten you. The troubles of life do not move you. Your one and only desire is to dwell in your union with God and never to be prized away from His presence all the days of your life. This is a time to comfort your fellow travellers in their challenging seasons of life (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Remember that our Shepherd is the Lover of the flock.

Whatever season your family is going through at this time or in the days ahead, be rest assured that He is working His goodness through it all. As He guides and cares for you in the pasturelands seasons, He will also comfort and protect you in the shadowlands seasons, and He will celebrate and party with you in the tablelands season. Your seasons will change but God does not change. As you run to Him you will enjoy the embrace of His love. He allows us to go through tribulations in this broken world, but we must be of good cheer because our Captain, Lord and King has overcome the world and given us His peace!!! (John 14:27; 16:33)

God bless you bountifully with His peace and rest in the days ahead.

Your co-labourer,

Chuks Aniereobi
Director.