



Coming Into Your Life's Anointing

**A Unique Perspective of the Twenty-Third Psalm,
Unveiling God's Special Plan For Your Life**

By Chris Simpson

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For additional copies:

New Wine Christian Fellowship

1033 Fairmont Parkway

Pasadena, TX 77504

(713) 910-3330

(New Wine's web page: www.newwineonline.com)

The Apostle John, in his first epistle, speaks of the three stages of Christian growth when he speaks of little children, young men and fathers. (1 John 2:12-14)

He says he has two reasons for writing to the little children: because their sins are forgiven, and because they have known the Father. What awesome experiences these are! After a lifetime of shame, guilt, despair and sorrow, how wonderful it is to know that your sins are forgiven. There are multitudes of desperate souls around the globe who spend all of their lifetime vainly pursuing religious works and deeds in hopes of finding release from the deep inner conviction that sin brings. Millions of Hindus, Buddhists and adherents of Islam are vainly trying to find the very thing that the little children of the faith have found.

And to have known the Father! When one comes to Christ, one of the first things they realize is that God is not some far off, uninvolved deity. Not at all. He's a Father. Jesus spoke of God as His Father all through His life and was nearly stoned by men at times for doing so. This intimacy Christ espoused concerning God was a bit much for the religious leaders of His day. Yet, this is exactly what Jesus brings, a near kinship with God that only the image of a father can describe.

John then commends the young men for three things: they are strong, the word of God abides in them and they have overcome the wicked one. This is the next stage of growth beyond childhood. God wants you to become strong in His Spirit. This happens as you allow His Word to abide in your life and in your thinking. As you seek to align your actions to conform to the dictates of his Word, you'll make an important discovery: that you can't do it, that there is something inside that prevents you from true obedience to God's righteous ways. This knowledge of your inability to do as He says is the key to strength, for it's only when you are weak that you are strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

The kingdom of God is a paradox. Jesus said you must lose your life in order to find it, you must die to yourself in order to live and you must be weak in order to experience strength. When a believer discovers his weakness and rebellious nature and gives up trying to please God, then he is beginning to enter the stage of the young man. Only in this place of strength through acknowledged weakness will you find the power necessary to overcome the wicked one. Satan's afraid of no one in their own right, but he's terrified of anyone that would come against him in their weakness and the strength of Jesus.

If you've been discouraged lately because of your failure to do as you should, be heartened! You're closer to this stage than you think. The proud man thinks that he's pleasing God. The truly humble man knows that he can't please God, in spite of his best efforts. Peter says that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5)

Finally, John has just a single commendation for the fathers. He says he's writing to them because they have known Him that is from the beginning. For a long time I puzzled over what John meant here. It seems that the testimony of the fathers returns to the stage of the children where John said they have known the Father. But then I realized that he was saying they had known Him that was from the beginning. Here's the key. This is the stage of growth every believer wants, but unfortunately many don't obtain. To know Him from the beginning means to begin to realize that God has been involved in your own life from the beginning. Every single thing you've done has been sovereignly turned around for the good for His ultimate glory. It means that you realize that there is a call and an anointing in your life that's been there long before the day you were saved. In fact, God called and ordained you before the world was formed. (Ephesians 1:4) To know God from the beginning is to come to the place where the only passion left in your life is to increase in the wisdom and comprehension of His divine and eternal purposes, not

just for yourself or for those around you, but to commune with His heart concerning the issues of eternity.

You can tell when one is beginning to enter the father stage, because prayer ceases to be a burden or a chore. Instead, times with God become the heart's delight. A father is one who, having walked many years with God, is simply at rest. He knows that all things are in God's hands and that nothing can ultimately be done against the truth but rather for the truth. (2 Corinthians 13:8) Striving, defensiveness and anxiety cease to be a part of his nature because he's truly come to the realm where he wholeheartedly trusts in God.

This is the ultimate place of growth to which God has called you. He's called you to forsake the comforts and conveniences of your life to experience the hidden riches of the secret place of the Most High. He's called you to press into Him to come into your life's anointing!

God's Road Map

A careful study of the familiar Twenty-third Psalm will reveal some astounding things. Here, as well, you can see the three-fold growth illustrated as in other places in the Scripture. In fact, this psalm is the closest thing to a road map found in all of the Word of God. God very much wants you to know, right from the start, where you've been, where you are, and where He's taking you. This well known psalm has hidden within it the secrets of Christian maturity. The first stage of growth found in this psalm is described in verses 1 to 3:

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul: He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

These passages describe the “believe” stage of the Christian walk. This is where a walk with God starts, in believing and in learning of His faithfulness to protect, provide, guide, feed and restore those who’ve chosen to follow Him. This corresponds to the ‘little children’ stage where you come to know the Father and His ample provisions for your life. Let’s examine each aspect of this stage separately.

The Lord is My Shepherd

God is a shepherd who cares for His sheep. Jesus describes the attributes of the faithful shepherd in the tenth chapter of John. There He says that the Good Shepherd will lay down his life for the sheep. God did just that for you. He says that the shepherd knows his sheep and calls them all by name. When you come to Christ, your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. He also says that the sheep know the shepherd’s voice and will follow their shepherd wherever he leads. When a person is truly born again, he obtains an ability to distinguish the voice of the Lord from the many other voices that abound in the world. While this ability may be untried at first, as one pursues the Shepherd, His voice becomes the dearest sound in the universe.

One of the most beautiful pictures of God’s care for His people is found in Isaiah:

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.
(Isaiah 40:11)

The major problem in most believers’ lives is not knowing (or believing) the Lord’s incredible love and care for their well-being. Most folks have a tendency to listen to the lie of the enemy that God is somehow mad at them because of their latest act of transgression. For this reason many believers spend much of their time

in a low-grade state of guilt. But God is your Shepherd! He dearly loves you and wants to nurture and care for your every little need.

Yes, sometimes He'll have to correct you when you've stubbornly gone your own way, but that's only so that he can confirm to you the faithfulness of His care. It's said that when a lamb persists in running from the safety of the flock towards danger, the shepherd may have to break its little leg to teach it to submit. But after such correction the lamb is held closely to the bosom of the shepherd during the leg's entire healing process. King David spoke of this very thing when he said:

Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which you have broken may rejoice. (Psalm 51:8)

What an intimate, caring, and loving Shepherd He is who will leave the ninety and nine to search and find you when you've wandered off. When He's rescued you from that cliff where you were ready to fall, the Bible says He puts you on His shoulders and brings you home with rejoicing!

I Shall Not Want

In the gospels, Jesus says not to worry or be anxious concerning what we should eat or drink, or what we should wear. If God faithfully feeds the birds every day and clothes the flowers with such brilliant colors, shall He not much more take care of your needs? Jesus said that we are of far more value than the sparrows. Paul said the same to the Philippians when he wrote:

But my God shall supply all of your need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

Yet, in spite of these assurances from the Scripture, so many of God's children spend much of their time fretting and anxious about money, the bills, their job, their car, etc. This is silly. If we are truly sons and daughters of the Most High God, why are we so often sidetracked by the petty fears of daily life? Can you imagine a little boy who greets his daddy coming home from work each evening begging him to please feed him supper, with a look on his face like he probably won't? How do you think that would make his daddy feel? How do you imagine the Father feels when His children persist in unbelief and fear in spite of the fact that He has time and time again proven His faithfulness in the lives of all of those who are committed to Him? God longs for you to leave these attitudes of untrusting childishness and come to the place where you'll truly believe with the psalmist:

O fear the Lord, you His saints: for their is no want to them that fear Him. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. (Psalm 34:9-10)

He Makes Me to Lie Down in Green Pastures

God knows that there's a hunger within the deepest part of our nature that nothing in this world can satisfy. Before people come to Christ, they spend their days trying this thing and that and going here and there seeking to quench the thirst that gnaws at them from within. But even when one knows the Lord the hunger pains from the spirit still cry out. What sustenance will satisfy these deep yearnings? His Word! I know this from my own experience.

When I first became a believer, I couldn't get enough of the Word. I'd read it all through the day, even propping my little Bible up against the mirror in the mornings when I brushed my teeth. God implants within us at our spiritual rebirth a deep desire to devour His Word. For a period of time, nothing else can catch our fancy to take us away from the riches found in the pages of Scripture. But then,

alas, at some point the initial euphoria of discovery wears off and the believer comes to a fork in the road of his Christian walk. Will he be a true disciple of the Word and continue in it regardless of how he feels (see John 8:31) or will he allow the cares and riches of life to grow like thorns and choke out his hungers for the true riches of Scripture?

Notice in Psalm 23 it says He “makes me” to lie down in green pastures. I’m sure the Lord would prefer that one jump for the chance to graze in the pastures of His truth rather than feeling compelled to do so by the adverse situations of life. Sometimes He will, indeed, let adversity come in order to return you to that first love of His Word.

He Leads Me Beside the Still Waters

We live in such a noisy culture that many of us really don’t know what it means to be quiet and still. With radios, TV’s, traffic noises, and noises of modern household conveniences blaring, it’s possible to go several months or years without a moment of genuine quietness. Yet, God tells us in the Psalms to “be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10) It’s His desire that you come to Him in moments of quiet reflection so that He can speak to your heart with His still, small voice. The Spirit is ever seeking to lead you, if you’ll let Him, to the still waters of His peace. The Lord’s voice is not really hard to hear once you’ve learned the secret of quietly waiting before Him. Jeremiah tells us:

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. (Lamentations 3:26)

If you’ll discipline yourself to sit perfectly still before the Lord for just a few minutes each day, you’ll be amazed at the increased serenity and freedom from

anxiety that you'll experience. He longs to lead you beside His still waters of peace and rest. Are you willing to follow Him there?

He Restores My Soul

The Lord in His mercy and compassion longs to heal the years of hurt, rejection and neglect in the lives of His children. When you came to Him and experienced rebirth, your human spirit was regenerated with new spiritual life. However, the soul (mind, will and emotions) also needs a transformation and deliverance. This process of restoration in the soul is called sanctification. As you choose to lie down in His green pastures by letting His Word dwell in you richly and choose to be led by His still waters by developing habits of quietness in prayer, then you're in the place for His restoration to begin taking place in your soul. That's why He sent the Holy Spirit: to cleanse and restore. The Lord speaking through the prophet Joel describes this process:

I will restore to you the years that the locust, the cankerworm and the caterpillar have eaten..... and you shall eat in plenty and be satisfied.... (Joel 2:25-26)

Periodically the land of Israel would be overrun with these predator insects that would destroy virtually all the crops in their way. There would be time of great grief after a year's harvest would be lost in a day. God's promise of restoration held great hope. He would so abundantly bless their future harvests that all losses of the past would be made up by the bounty to come. So it is with God's people today. In spite of the years of hurt, fear and agony one might have known in his growing up years, God's grace is more than sufficient to not only undo the effects of the past, but to actually turn it all around for the good. Some day soon God may equip you with power to minister to the lives of others in that very area where you've suffered. All things will work together for the good to those who love and trust in the Lord.

He Leads Me in Paths of Righteousness for His Name's Sake

The Lord's ultimate desire for your life is far greater than just the restoration and redemption of your past. He also has a plan for you to fulfill. He has a specific path for you to follow. Before you were born, God already had a unique calling and vision for your life. It's at this stage on our road map that He normally begins to make these things known to a believer. Up to now, His main task has been the restoration and sanctification of the soul. Once the Lord sees that His child is cooperative and a participator in the process, then He'll move them up to this level of clearer revelation concerning their specific part to play in His kingdom.

There's a reason for letting the believer know these things now. The valley is coming and they're going to need a vision to hold to when the forces of hell attempt to dissuade them from their calling. The timing of God's revelations in this area generally depends upon the believer. If you apply yourself early in your Christian walk to the disciplines of the Spirit, then God can make use of you far sooner than if you choose to sit on the fence and keep one foot in the world. Unfortunately, genuinely committed disciples are as hard to find today as they were in Jesus' day. Read the sixth chapter of John and you'll see that most folks followed Jesus for what they could get out of the deal and quickly bailed out when things got too rough or when they couldn't understand what was going on.

Now it's time to go on to the next stage of Christian growth. Let's walk down the path of righteousness to see what lies ahead? Will you find the fulfillment of past promises? Will it lead to the consummation of your life's calling? Yes, it will, but there's something you must first pass through. The second stage of growth is described in verse 4:

Yea, 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.

These passages describe the “trust” stage of the Christian walk. This is where a walk with God begins to mature in learning to trust His faithfulness and care for you when everything around seems to indicate otherwise. This is the ‘young men’ stage where you begin to experience deep deliverance and understand His principles of correction and authority. This is the stage where the young men begin to learn how to overcome the wicked one. In other words, it’s time to enter spiritual warfare.

Unfortunately, the majority of believers never really get through this stage. Most believers quite enjoy the blessings of the pasture and still waters, and would be very content living out their Christian walk in the fields without ever venturing down some unfamiliar path to who knows where. Jesus said that many are called but few are chosen. In His kingdom today there are a proportionally far greater number of little children than maturing sons and daughters. In spite of this, His call to follow His footsteps and bear His cross ever beckons those who would desire to know the deeper things of God.

Let’s examine each aspect of this stage separately.

Walking Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death

This is the discipleship stage. This is where the rubber hits the road in any believer’s walk. This is the time to go into the valley and begin to surrender everything that’s near and dear to you: your rights, your wants, your dreams, your desires, everything. This is the time to truly make Him Lord in a way you maybe didn’t understand during those days when He was leading and feeding you in the

pastures. Abraham came to this place in Genesis 22 when God asked him to put on the altar the object of all of his hopes and dreams: his son Isaac. Only after Abraham passed the test did he have an understanding of what it really meant to trust God.

Most believers today don't comprehend what trusting God is really all about. You have to really want it to go through this stage of development. This is not for babies. God's calling forth a people who are willing to be conformed to the image of His Son. Jesus made some amazing choices in His lifetime in the areas of the valley of the shadow of death. He knew from the time of His youth that He was to die. He accepted it. It was part of His daily walk. Time and again He told His disciples of His impending arrest and death, but they wouldn't hear it. Death was something they wanted no part of. They were young and excited and wanted to be a part of this new movement Jesus was raising up. But Jesus knew the day was coming when they too would be forced to choose the descent into the valley. Judas didn't make it. Peter barely did. The rest ran away when the chips were down and hid. Only when He sent the His Holy Spirit on Pentecost were they infused with the courage that Jesus had to lay down their lives for the cause of the kingdom of God.

One day, shortly after His resurrection, Jesus challenged Peter to descend to the valley:

Truly, truly I say to you, when you were young you girded yourself and walked wherever you would: but when you shall be old, you shall stretch forth your hands, and another shall gird you, and carry you where you'd not otherwise go. This spake Jesus in signifying by what death Peter should glorify God. (John 21:18-19)

Jesus could be saying the same thing to His followers today. When one is young in the faith, there's the tendency to do pretty much as you would from your own

reasoning, pride and self will. This is understandable. That's the way one lived life before he was born again. But His call is for His followers to grow older, to go to the next stage, where your very rights to decide where you go, and when and with whom, are laid at His feet.

The valley of the shadow of death is that stage of the Christian walk where you begin to honestly face yourself, particularly in the context of other believers. This is not easy. Most folks spend half of their lives going around kidding themselves about themselves. We all generally believe that we're not really that bad a person, that the major problems in relationships by and large tend to be the faults of others. Admit it. This is the natural thinking of human pride. God wants us to see ourselves the way He sees us, and the way that's accomplished is through intimate fellowship with other believers.

The key to a true self-awareness is to humble yourself and live in a Christian community of brothers and sisters all struggling to love one another, serve one another, and be honest one with another. It's in this environment, and this environment only, that God can bring you to a healthy, balanced truth about yourself. For some this experience is truly a dark night of the soul. Fears and rejections might scream in your ears telling you to run from any situation where you might have to be open or vulnerable. Often these fears are quite understandable. It may be that up to this point in your life openness and vulnerability have only brought you more hurt and rejection. However, if you would be free, you're going to have to come out of your self imprisonment and let God's love have a chance to heal you. His love flows through His people.

If you're reading this and you don't have a trusting and mature brother or sister to share your heart with, I strongly encourage you to cry out to God to bring such a person into your life. If you really want to be free, He will do it. Your freedom means far more to Him than it even does to you. He's just been waiting for you to

come to Him with a humble heart, admitting your need. Remember the little woman who crawled across the cobblestones to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. She received what she sought because she wanted it more than anything else in her life.

I Will Fear No Evil

Praise God! Now you're beginning to see some of the incredible rewards of that venture into the valley. Oh, to come to the place where you no longer are tormented by the fears and anxieties of life! Few indeed arrive at this plateau. But this is Jesus' solemn promise. Over and over He told His disciples not to fear, as He said in the gospel of John:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)

Fear is rooted in sin, unbelief and lack of trust. Once you've seen the Master come through for you in those scary moments down there in the valley, then day to day anxieties cease to be such a big deal. Fear is also the main weapon in the arsenal of the enemy. When you've learned to recognize it as such, it'll be easier to overcome. Paul tells us in his epistle to Timothy that God has not given us the spirit of fear. (2 Timothy 1:7) When you begin to resist fear as you would any other spirit sent from Satan, you'll find that your Christian walk is entering a plane of freedom that you probably only dreamed of back there in those pastures of green grass.

At this point, it's time to put on your spiritual armor and enter the spiritual war. Until I entered aggressive spiritual warfare my Christian walk was lacking in many ways. Since then, it's become an exciting and challenging adventure. Don't kid yourself. When you became a believer, you joined the Lord's army. However, be-

fore any soldier is sent to the front lines, he must first undergo a rigorous period of intense training called boot camp. The valley of the shadow of death (coming into honest intimacies with those around you) is your boot camp to learn to wield the weapons of truth and love against the devastating forces of the evil one.

For You Are With Me

Hidden in this short phrase is one of the greatest revelations found in Psalm Twenty Three. Notice the change in tense. Up to this point the psalmist has been referring to his Shepherd as “He,” speaking in the third person. But now, after coming through the depths of the valley, His Shepherd has become his beloved friend. It’s no longer “He” but it’s “You!” Praise the Lord! This is what Christianity is all about: coming into such an intimacy with God where He’s no longer a distant Deity but an intimate and cherished companion. The prophet Hosea spoke of this very thing:

And it shall be at that day, says the Lord, that you shall call me Ishi (my beloved husband); and shall call me no more Baali (my lord). (Hosea 2:16)

God had an incredible intimacy with Adam and Eve, but they squandered it for the pleasures of sin. The whole of God’s redemptive plan of the ages can be summed up by saying: He’s seeking to return you to that garden experience where He can share His heart with you as you walk with Him in the cool of the day. All that you’ve ever done cannot compare with the pleasures found in intimacy with God.

Your Rod and Staff Comfort Me

Everyone needs correction from time to time. In fact, Solomon tells us that reproofs of instruction are the way of life. (Proverbs 6:23) Most folks, however, tend

to get quite defensive when the Lord seeks to correct them concerning some attitude or action, particularly when that correction comes through another believer. Even a cursory glance through the Proverbs will show you that the issue of correction and reproof comes up many times. If you were to underline all of the verses pertaining to this area in Proverbs, you would have a very underlined book. Suffice it to say, this a major issue in the heart of God.

Correction and reproof need not be hard pills to swallow, though, if you can just keep before you the truth concerning your true human nature apart from the Lord's anointings in your life. You were born in sin and in fact the only thing you really do well from your own strength is sin. You didn't have to take "Selfishness 101" in school when you were growing up. No, that came quite naturally. This being the case, there will be times, even with the most ardent followers of the Lord, when the old nature and its habits will come through. Then will be the time to thank God for His corrections, and to say, "your rod (of correction) comforts me."

He also speaks of a staff. The staff speaks of the authority vested in the shepherd over the flock of his care. Another major issue that every believer must face is the issue of authority. Most folks, however, would rather run from this issue than face it. This is particularly true with this generation, with its roots deeply imbedded in the rebellions of the Sixties. However, if you would mature in the Lord, those hidden (and not so hidden) rebellious tendencies must be recognized and taken to the cross.

Jesus is the sovereign Lord and He has vested His authority in many ways in this world. The Bible tells you to submit to the ruling powers of the society in which you live. God has vested an authority in the husband that the wife and children need to honor. But, lest a husband should point out that last statement to his wife, God's also instructed the husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church, thus earning the respect due them from their family. God has vested His

authority in the church in the structures of pastoral leadership through pastors and elders. It's essential that every believer submit his life and ministry to those over him in the Lord for God's umbrella of protection from deception and pride. Remember, the authority you exercise in your life is directly related to the degree in which you are willing to walk in submission. (Matthew 8:9)

Now it's time to look at the final stage of Christian growth. Let's look at this third stage of growth found in verses 5 and 6 of Psalm Twenty-Three.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies: you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

These passages describe the "abide" stage of the Christian walk. This is where your choices to bear the cross and lead a crucified life begin to bear fruit. This is the 'fathers stage' that John speaks of. It's here that you'll come to the place of full mastery over the enemy, to the point where he doesn't threaten you or your walk anymore; you're calmly eating dinner with him standing there. This is the place where you come into your life's anointing. The oil speaks of the anointing power of the Holy Spirit. Finally, this is the stage where your heart's desire, which once was for so many things, is just to be where Jesus is and to contentedly remain in the glorious confines of the Father's house.

Let's examine each aspect of this stage separately.

You Prepare a Table Before Me In the Presence of My Enemies

There was a character in the Old Testament named Mephibosheth, a grandson of King Saul, who experienced an amazing thing in his life. Years before he was

born, his father Jonathan made a covenant of protection for his heirs with the man who would one day be king of Israel, David. Many years later, after the death of Saul and Jonathan, King David asked if there was anyone left of Jonathan's family to whom he could show mercy because of that covenant. Yes, he was told, there was a young man named Mephibosheth, who was Jonathan's son. So David sent men to bring Mephibosheth before him. When Mephibosheth came, he fell on his face for fear, thinking he was to be killed since he was the grandson of Saul, David's enemy. Instead, David said:

“Fear not: for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.” (2 Samuel 9:7)

Here he was, the grandson of David's enemy, allowed to feast at the table of the king for the rest of his days. What incredible grace! Yet, the same is true for you and me. God the Father made a covenant with God the Son long ago in eternity past. (Psalm 89:28-36) Because of this, we who are enemies of God because of the rebellion of Adam can sit at the table of the King and feast with Him forever!

O, the depth of the riches of God's grace and kindness shed forth through Jesus Christ!

Paul tells us in Ephesians that we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6) You need never cower before the enemy again. It's silly for a believer to be afraid of the devil. The truth is, he's terrified of you, particularly when you begin to resist him from your seatedness at the king's table in the heavenly places. This is where you are NOW. Once you begin to operate from that place in the spirit you'll find great release from any demonic intimidation that may be tormenting your life.

You Anoint My Head With Oil,
My Cup Runs Over

This is how to come into your life's anointing. God has a consecrated office for you to fulfill in His kingdom. His desire is to anoint you, not just enough to get the job done, but with an overflowing oil that'll submerge your life in power and wisdom. The scripture says that Jesus received the anointing of the Spirit without measure. As a result, He did some pretty remarkable things: healed the lame, opened the eyes of the blind, raised the dead, and much more. Jesus also said that those who believed on Him would do even greater works than these. How? All it takes is for one to be willing to follow God's "road map" found in Psalm Twenty-Three to come to the place where He can entrust to them these treasures of anointing and power.

I Will Dwell In the House
of the Lord Forever

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a way called the highway of holiness where no ravenous beasts can come. (Isaiah 35:8) The psalmist describes a secret place of the Most High where you can hide and find refuge from the storms and turmoils of life. (Psalm 91) Oh believer, I urge you to never stop until you get to this place! Never rest content until you can say with David:

One thing have I desired of the Lord,
that will I seek after;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in His temple."

(Psalm 27:4)

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