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Knowing Our Weaknesses – God Made Provision for Our Failings

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"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 paths of righteousness for His name's sake." This phrase is the one we will look at today.

What does the shepherd boy David who later became King David, mean by these words in Psalm 23? We discussed in my last column that David had a great fall after he was elevated to power as king. He thought he could have what he wanted including another man's wife. The more earthly power humankind has the more temptations there are.

The historian and moralist, the first Baron Lord Acton speaks of this condition, "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely" (1834–1902). He said further, "Great men are almost always bad men" [The Phrase Finder, Gary Martin, 1996-2009].

Does this mean that we should not try to become great men and women such as: presidents, vice-presidents, governors, members of congress, sports men and women, actors, TV personalities, pilots, authors, priests, or pastors? Of course not.

But as we have opportunity to become well known, we need to be aware of the pitfalls as well as the opportunities given us. I think a good plan is to spend more time in prayer and study of the life-lessons given in the Bible.

It might be beneficial to consistently meet with an accountability group of peers who are also seeking wholeness. Balance out your life by not having a steady diet of secular TV. Get some good CD's and DVD teachings to watch during your evening hours.

Does righteousness mean having "a holier than thou" attitude? No! To me it means: right thinking, right speaking and right acting, and to have right standing with God through Christ. Jesus showed us by His life how we could be like Him. He is our role model "pahr eksuhlans." (Fr.)

GOD MADE PROVISION FOR OUR FAILINGS

Knowing our weaknesses, He made provision for our failings by the way of repentance.

He also made provision for Believers to be empowered with the Holy Spirit ("Book of Acts," Bible). We cannot live a righteous life without divine help.

One day, as I was meditating on Psalm 23, I noticed that the phrase, "He restores my soul" comes just before, "He leads me in paths of righteousness." That is experientially true.

The healing of the soul needs to take place before we are able to live righteously. In my last column, I got into this subject more thoroughly. (See the Beacon Website or mine www.EmotionallyFree.org.)

"He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Our earthly family has a reputation, and if it is good, it would be unfortunate to be smirched by living unrighteously. This is true also with God's spiritual family to which every Believer belongs.

For God's name sake, and due to our love for Him, we want to be good representatives of His family. How we live now has eternal value. Jesus, our great Intercessor, is praying that we'll have strength to do the right thing.

ARE WE TZADDIK?

Tzaddik means a righteous person. *Tzaddik* with the definite article, means "the Messiah" (Matthew 10:41+) (Stern, The Complete Jewish Bible).

Tzaddik is the 18th letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is interesting to see that the letter looks like an individual kneeling and lifting his or her arms in praise.

It is written in Hebrew like a capital "Y" that is bent at the bottom. Kneeling with arms lifted in praise is a good way to become more *tzaddik*. King David became *tzaddik*. So can we.

Jesus said in His "Sermon on the Mount," "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6 KJV MOD., Psalms 119:137-144).

If you ask Him to be filled with righteousness, I am sure He will answer you.

Join me for the 6th "Psalm 23 Series" next time.

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