

PRAY FIRST

The Transformative Power Of A Life Built On Prayer

LESSON 4 – PRAYING THE NAMES OF GOD

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads 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 You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.” Psalms 23 (NKJV)

Praying the names of God helps us to get the order straight- and put God first in our lives and in our day. When we approach him on his terms, not our own, we make it clear that we want to know all the aspects of God and the fullness of his character. Praying this way pleases the Lord, while helping us to know more about who he is and what he is truly like.

1. You are my shepherd.

- A. “*The Lord is my shepherd*” (*Psalm 23:1a*). The word *shepherd* literally means pastor. God is watching over us and pastoring us as we go through this life.
- B. Jesus is the chief Shepherd. In *John 10:4* “*And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*”, we read that Jesus said we are like sheep, and he is the shepherd. The sheep recognizes his voice and turns away from the voice of the enemy.

2. You are my provider.

- A. “*I shall not want*” (*vs 1b*). We literally will not lack because God is watching over our lives. We will never be in need or “begging for bread,” because God is the provider in our lives.
- B. We trust God to provide, so we give him the first of everything. We tithe, and give, and go to church on the first day of the week. We give to him first, knowing that he will provide the rest.

3. You are my peace.

- A. “*He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters*” (*vs 2*). Even in the middle of anxiety, fear, chaos, worry, stress, and depression, God is our peace.
- B. God will keep us in perfect peace because we have our minds stayed on him and trust in him, knowing that he is guarding our soul.

4. You are my healer.

- A. “*He restores my soul*” (*vs 3a*). To *restore* means to return something back to the point of

departure. God brings everything that got undone back to the original point of departure.

B. A **disease** is every place where you are dis-eased. So we pray for God to bring healing not only in our physical bodies but also in every area of our lives that needs his touch.

5. You are my **righteousness**.

A. *"He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (vs 3b)*. When we are **saved**, we are made completely new and completely clean. We are made righteous before God.

B. But God still leads us on the paths of righteousness. We thank God that we are no longer where we used to be, but we want to keep **growing** in righteousness. We want to be more like Christ.

6. You are my Constant **companion**.

A. *"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" (vs 4)*. In the Old Testament, God was literally called "The Lord is **there**" **Ezekiel 48:35** *"All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE."*

B. In the New Testament, the Holy spirit is described as the **comforter** who will abide with us forever. He will be right alongside us and help us through life.

7. You are my **defender**.

A. *"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies" (vs 5a)*. We don't have to fight our own battles. We can sit at a table and eat because God is **fighting** our battles for us.

B. Right now, there are men and women engaged in battles around the world to defend our freedoms. God is doing the same. He is fighting **battles** that we don't even know anything about.

8. You are my **sanctifier**.

A. *"You anoint my head with oil; my cups runs over" (vs 5b)*. God **anoints** us and gives us more than we need so we can be a blessing to the world around us.

B. The word *sanctify* in the Greek literally means to be set **apart** for a special work. God sanctifies us, or sets us apart, so that we can be used by him in a great way.

Quote: *"Instead of focusing on ourselves, praying the names of God make it all about him."* ~
Chris Hedges

Names For God

- **Jehovah: “I Am Who I Am”** God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14)
- **Jehovah-M’Kaddesh: The God Who Sanctifies.** “Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. ⁸Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy.” (Leviticus 20:7-8)
- **Jehovah-Jireh: The God Who Provides.** “Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.” (Genesis 22:13-14)
- **Jehovah-Shalom: The God Of Peace.** “So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace.” (Judges 6:24a)
- **Jehovah-Rophe: The God Who Heals.** “If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)
- **Jehovah-Nissi: God Is Our Banner:** “Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.” (Exodus 17:15)
- **El-Shaddai: God Almighty.** “Because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, ²⁵because of your father’s God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you with blessings of the skies above.” (Genesis 49:24-25)
- **Adonai: Master, Lord.** “Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: “Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? (2 Samuel 7:18)