

Growth Assignment

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Is God Good? He Lifts Me Up

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

³ *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

⁴ *Even 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...***

Psalm 23: 1 – 5 (ESV)

God is planning a banquet for all who believe in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. He is the host; you are the guest of honor. His preparations are being made right in front of your enemies on the battleground of this earth. Your enemies are the world, Satan, and the old nature. God is calling you to fellowship with him and wants to bless you to show the world how good he is. The menu for the banquet is all God's promises in the Bible. Take a look at the Word and find something to feast on today. Let God lift the burdens you have today as you come to his table.

John 6: 33 (NLT)

...Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

1. God loves the people of the world, but hates the world's value system, which is anti-God and materialistic. How does the truth that God overcame the world, give us the strength to deal with the trials, tribulations, distress and frustrations of life?

1 Peter 5: 8 (ESV)

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

2. Satan, a powerful enemy, uses clever tricks and tactics to attack God's children. Using deception, distraction, and discouragement, Satan manipulates our insecurities and plays to our fears. How can we find strength and protection in God's Word to recognize Satan's tricks and protect ourselves from this powerful enemy?

Romans 7: 23 (NLT)

...there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me slave to the sin that is still within me.

3.
 - A. List some of the ways a person can be their own biggest enemy.
 - B. Knowing these, why does the devil need to do very little to distance us from God?
 - C. Where else do people put their trust other than in God?
 - D. When hearts stray away from God and his ways, how does God call us back to himself?

4.
 - A. Consider a time in your life when you felt others held you in contempt or worked against you. How does knowing God was planning your victory banquet before this battle even started give you encouragement to continue in a harsh world?
 - B. What feelings or thoughts do you have in response to the image of your victory celebration?

5. Sometimes God uses our struggles to draw our attention to him. How can knowing some of the 6,000 promises in the Bible help you understand the ways of God and his workings in your life?

6. Take a few minutes and find one or two of these promises, such as *I will never leave or forsake you*. This week, use at least one promise to direct your priorities, values and commitments.