



Indecisiveness **Psalm 23:3b**

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.

(John 10:27-30, Isa 43:1-7, John 14:6, Ps 46:10, Ez 36:26, Rom 5:8)

1. God always **restores** us from where we are **before** He guides us to where He wants us to be.
2. Pursuing paths of righteousness **before** pursuing the One Who Is Righteous will lead to either works righteousness or disobedience.

Can you know the God's will? If you did, would you follow it?

God's Three-fold Will

(reference = Just Do Something – Kevin DeYoung)

3. God's will of **decree**. = All that He ordains according to His own good and sovereign purpose. That purpose is the **restoration** of His creation. (Act 4:27-28)
4. God's will of **desire**. = All that God commands of and desires for His creatures. God's will of desire demands our **obedience** in a way that brings Him **glory** and bring us eternal rest **in Him**. (1John 2:15-17, Heb 13:20-21, Mat 7:21)
5. God's will of **direction** is often a mystery. But, His will of direction never **violates** His word and always serves His purposes, not ours. (1Pt 2:1-3, Deut 29:29, 2Cor 5:7)

Following The Shepherd

6. Don't **invert** the gospel. Submit to all that comes through the God's loving hand and allow Him to purify you through continuous Gospel redemption – the sanctification process.
7. Find your strength and confidence in Christ and be **obedient** to His word. Don't **spiritualize** fear and laziness.

The Conventional Approach to Seeking God's Will of Direction

- Wrongly focusing all the attention on nonmoral issues
- Wrongly believing God is playing hide and seek
- Wrongly having a preoccupation with the future
- Undermining personal responsibility, accountability and initiative
- Being enslaved to the hopeless chains of subjectivism (gut feelings)

8. Consecrate yourself to lay hold of what He has in store for you. (Joshua 3:5)

9. Don't demand **knowledge** at the expense of wisdom. (James 1:5, Phillipians4:7)

10. Psalm 23 is more than knowledge about the Shepherd. It is a **proclamation of truth** when The Lord **IS** your shepherd.

11. God leads us through His **Word**, His **people** and His **Spirit**. He leads us to **Himself** for His name's sake.

Ps 23:3b He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Growing Notes:

1. Read Psalm 23:1-3 and discuss the ways that God restores us from where we are before He guides us to where He wants us to be. Discuss why that order is important.
2. Review and discuss the three-fold will of God (as described in Kevin DeYoung's book Just Do Something). Describe a time that you have sought God's will. When, why and how did you do that? What happened?
3. In Joshua 3:5 consecration meant that God's people were to ceremonially and morally set themselves apart and prepare themselves to be used for God's Holy purposes. As Christians, this is a daily need. What are we to be set apart from and for? Discuss how you consecrate yourself for what God might be doing in your life or how you might start doing so.