

# LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVERLASTING



## YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE ...

AFTER THIS MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES TURNED BACK AND NO LONGER WALKED WITH HIM. SO JESUS SAID TO THE TWELVE, "DO YOU WANT TO GO AWAY AS WELL?" SIMON PETER ANSWERED HIM, "LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE."

(JOHN 6:66-68 ESV)

1. David is filled with awe as he ponders the profound nature of God's care for him through his intimate, inescapable omniscience, 139:1-6.

- (Psalm 139:1–6 ESV) **O LORD [Yahweh], you have searched me and known me!** 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD [Yahweh], you know it altogether. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.**

- A. God knows us better than we know ourselves.
- B. His intimate knowledge of us is too wonderful, too high for us to fully absorb or comprehend (intellectually, emotionally, volitionally).
- C. When we somewhat begin to realize the deep, caring nature of God's purpose with this knowledge—to lovingly, comprehensively and strategically care for his sheep—we bow down before him in worship and praise.

2. David is filled with awe as he ponders the profound nature of God's care for him through his intimate, inescapable omnipresence, 139:7-12.

- (Psalm 139:7–12 ESV) **Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?** 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 **even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.** 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

- A. There is no getting away or being separated from the care of our Shepherd LORD Yahweh.

- (Psalm 23:1 ESV) **The LORD [Yahweh] is my shepherd;** I shall not want.
- (John 10:14–15 ESV) **I am the good shepherd.** I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows

**Awe ...**

**an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, fear, or wonder produced by that which is majestic, sublime, sacred and powerful.**

me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

- (John 10:27–30 ESV) **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.** 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 **My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.** 30 **I and the Father are one.**

- B. The all-encompassing, shepherding presence of God provides us with overwhelming assurance and strength.

- C. No matter where we are in his universe his hand shall lead us and his right hand shall hold us.

3. David is filled with awe as he ponders the holy, distinctively wonderful, intricate, creative power of God in forming and fashioning his life, 139:13-16.

- (Psalm 139:13–16 ESV) For **you formed** my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.** **Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.** 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; **in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.**

- A. The wonderful, powerful, intimate creative power of God is revealed from the forming of our bodies to the forming of our days.

- i. Formed in verse 13 means to create, to bring into existence.
- ii. Formed in verse 16 means to be an object of planning—to form, fashion or frame.

- B. The details of our lives are so fixed and certain as to be written down in his book.

4. David is filled with awe and gratitude as he ponders the precious, overwhelmingly immeasurable thoughts of God in regard to his life, 139:17-18.

- (Psalm 139:17–18 ESV) **How precious to me are your thoughts,** O God! **How vast is the sum of them!** 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

- A. The thoughts of God toward us are invaluable and innumerable.
- B. David basks in the warmth of the enduring, infinite, thoughtfulness of God toward him.

**5. David expresses his hatred for those who could hate such a God as this, 139:19-22.**

- (Psalm 139:19–22 ESV) Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! 20 They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain. 21 **Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?** And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? 22 **I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.**
- A. The hate of those who hate God stirs a passionate response in David and provokes a hatred toward God's enemies.
- B. The logical, biblical outcome for those who truly love God will be to hate those who hate God.
- C. These are not our enemies primarily but our enemies secondarily because they are God's enemies.
- D. This is not hating our personal adversaries but hating God's enemies.
- E. It follows biblically and logically that loving God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength means that we will hate what God hates.
  - (Proverbs 6:16–19 ESV) There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.
- F. For more insight listen to James Dolezal's message on Psalm 139:19-24. This is posted on our blog.

**6. Now in full surrender mode David's passion for a closer walk with God overflows in his plea for God to lead him in the way everlasting, 139:23-24.**

- (Psalm 139:23–24 ESV) **Search me,** O God, and know my heart! **Try me** and know my thoughts! 24 **And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!**

Upon reaching a certain depth of understanding of the intimate, amazingly blessed position of grace we enjoy in our relationship with our omniscient, omnipresent, infinitely wise and loving Shepherd and Creator God an amazing, passionate transformation begins to take hold in our lives ...

- A. David now knows that the way everlasting is found in a no-holds-barred submission to and full surrender to the hate-destroying, sin-finding, soul-cleansing work of Almighty God in his life.
- B. He wants God to seek him out and test his heart and thoughts and rid him of every way of hate and pain and sin in his life.

**7. David knows that to be led by God in every aspect of a person's life is walking the way everlasting.**

- A. The way everlasting is the abundant life for which the good shepherd, Jesus Christ, laid down his life.
  - (John 10:10–11 ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.** 11 I am the good shepherd. **The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.**
- B. The way everlasting is the path of life.
  - (Psalm 16:11 ESV) **You make known to me the path of life;** in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
- C. The way everlasting is the life which God makes known to those who heed his instruction, receive his discipline and walk in his light.
  - (Proverbs 10:17 ESV) **Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.** **\*WOW\***
  - (Proverbs 6:23 ESV) For **the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.**
- D. The way everlasting is hard and found by few.
  - (Matthew 7:14 ESV) For the gate is narrow **and the way is hard that leads to life,** and those who find it are few.
- E. The way everlasting is set before us as a choice between life and death.
  - (Deuteronomy 30:19 ESV) I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, **that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.** Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.

# YOU MAKE KNOWN TO ME THE PATH OF LIFE



**IN YOUR PRESENCE THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY;  
AT YOUR RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE.**

(PSALM 16:11 ESV)