



September 24, 2020

## Living in Mindfulness of Our Magnificent God

*Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. (Matthew 22:19)*

Psalm 23 begins with what is surely one of the most audacious assertions in the English language: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want." When you first read this thoughtfully you may be tempted to think, Is this guy living in the real world? The answer is most assuredly yes. Indeed, he is living in the most real world, a world where Yahweh is present and available and actively involved in the lives of those who know and trust him. Such people can truly say, "I shall not want," and know it to be true by experience.

The secret to a life without lack is rooted in our knowledge of God. When that knowledge is absent from our minds, everything goes to pieces because the primary contact with God is through your mind, and what you do with your mind is the most important choice you have to make. Wherever your mind goes, the rest of your life goes with it. When your mind loses its integrity—through disease, damage, or sin—your actions follow, becoming chaotic and disconnected. And so if your mind loses contact with the right things your body will naturally follow.

Now, if we place our minds on God, the reality of God comes into our lives. And until our minds are informed by the right view of God, we cannot put our minds on God in the right way. The problem is so severe that when Jesus came he essentially said to people, "Forget everything you think you know about God, and I'm going to tell you what he is really like."

**Practice:** *There's an old saying that goes, "It ain't what we know that hurts us. It's what we know that ain't so." All the things that we know about God that "ain't so" destroy our lives, poison us, throw our lives out of kilter, and throw our bodies out of an appropriate relationship to reality.*

*Hudson Taylor, the great apostle to China, said that "the issue is not greater faith, but faith in a great God." This week focus on God. Fill your mind with the God that Jesus makes known to us. It's as you spend time focusing on his greatness, remembering his kindness, and rejoicing in his faithfulness that your confidence in him will rise. It's by celebrating the small things that God has already done that you'll find faith for the things he hasn't done yet. Take some time to record answers to prayers, return to them regularly, and rejoice in the ways the Lord has been shepherding you.*