



**PSALM 23:
THE PROCEDURE TO RESPONDING
TO THE SHEPHERDING OF THE SHEPHERD
(PART 2)**

Dr. Nicolas Ellen

Since God is your shepherd and you shall not want, your faith must work itself out in love for God, and love for others. (Galatians 5:6,13, 1 John 2:3-10)

- A.** Loving God is demonstrated by obeying His commands – to faithfully/consistently (not perfectly) adhere to and follow the will and directions given by God in the Scriptures as a way of life.
- B.** To obey the commands is an act of the will that moves into action to do what is instructed by God on a faithful/consistent basis (not perfectly) as a way of life.
- C.** Genuine obedience is demonstrated as we apply God’s command to our:

- 1. **Character** – To reflect the personality of God on the inside and outside

“That in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.” (Ephesians 4:21-24)

- 2. **Conduct** – To carry yourself in a manner that represents the holiness of God and not self-righteousness or self-indulgence

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lust which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior, because it is written ‘You shall be Holy for I Am Holy.’” (1 Peter 1:14-16)

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2)

- 3. **Conversation** – To speak words and to engage in dialogue that displays that character of God

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment so that it will give grace to those who hear.” (Ephesians 4:29)

- 4. **Commitments** – To devote yourself to God

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” (Romans 12:1)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo I am with you always even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

5. **Commodities** – To enjoy and share generously the resources God has provided you, without putting hope in resources

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.”
(1 Timothy 6:17-18)

6. **Communion** – To stay in consistent fellowship with other believers

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

- D. Loving others is demonstrated by seeking the highest of good of others unconditionally with no strings attached through the power of God.
- E. Loving others is demonstrated by responding to the condition and need of others above the attractiveness and personal interest in others.
- F. Loving others is demonstrated by responding in genuine concern and benevolence towards others resulting in service and sacrifice on their behalf for the glory of God and the benefit of that person with no strings attached through the power of God.

Key Point: We received Christ Jesus the Lord as our Savior from the penalty, the power and soon the presence of sin (the kingdom of darkness) unto a new and right relationship with God. That gives us new life in Christ, an inheritance to come, and soon a complete transformation of spirit and body into the Perfect Image of Jesus Christ when He returns. We received Christ Jesus the Lord as our new Ruler who has absolute authority over our lives and overall instruction and direction for our lives. Since we received Christ Jesus the Lord as our Savior and Ruler, we are to live by faith in the hope that is to come through Him. Since we received Jesus Christ the Lord as our Savior and Ruler, we are to live embracing His presence, walking in holiness, love, and service as prescribed and directed by Jesus, while anticipating the hope that is to come through Him.