

"Then said Jesus unto them again, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the Door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the Door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His Life for the sheep." John 10:7-11 KJV



In ancient times, the shepherd was the door to the sheepfold. He slept at the entrance. Jesus is the Door and the Shepherd. He protects and guards at the same time. A door is a barrier to evil and a guard is threat and a deterrent to evil. If we think of the fact that Jesus is *"the Word made flesh,"* then the Word of God becomes at once a barrier and a threat to the evil that incessantly tries to gain entrance to our souls. We must enter in at the Door and we must follow the Shepherd. You cannot ever hope to live victorious as a Christian if God's Word and the Truth are not constantly in your thoughts. God's Word in your thoughts is the Shepherd's Voice. *"My sheep hear my Voice and they follow me. All we like sheep have gone astray and turned everyone to his own way."* Unattended, you will stray. If your thoughts are not filled with God's Word throughout the day, you are NOT one of His sheep. You are a goat. *"When the Son of man shall come in His Glory, and all the Holy Angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His Glory: And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" Your thoughts will follow the desires of your flesh if you are not actively following the Shepherd. You cannot travel east if you're going west. You must daily read and study God's Word so it is in and on your mind at all hours of the day and night. It is a discipline that must be practiced and made habitual. It is our only hope of living in the liberty and power of the Spirit. *"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."* What is Christ? *"The Word...made flesh."* If we are not well versed in God's Word, how will we know which thoughts are against Him? How will we recognize His Voice when He speaks? Salvation is only a beginning. If you do not feed an infant, it will die. When you are *"born again of the Spirit,"* you are a spiritual infant. Without the Bread of Life and the Water of the Word, the reborn you will remain helpless against evil. Your prayers will be powerless and your efforts wasted unless you strengthen your spiritual self with a constant diet of spiritual meat and Living Water. The sheep know the voice of their shepherd and they follow him. Are you a sheep or a goat? Jesus said, *"MY sheep KNOW my voice and they follow me. Hereby we do KNOW that we Know Him, if we keep (obey) His commandments. The steps (decisions) of a good man are ordered by the Lord and he delighteth in His way."* Do you delight to obey God? Then you are a goat!*

The Shepherd leads to pastures fair,
To waters still, beyond compare,
And when the evil night surrounds,
His Love and Grace will know no bounds. ~CGP

If we don't go through the Door and follow the Good Shepherd, we will never find green pasture or still waters!

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20 KJV