

# †.my Shepherd

The Lord is *my Shepherd*, I shall not want.



**FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE**

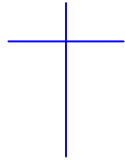
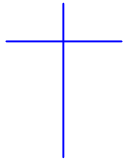
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## TODAYS SCRIPTURE

**Yet to all who received him,...He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12, NIV)**

## Thank God For Little Things

Thank you, God, for little things  
that often came our way.  
The things we take for granted  
but don't mention when we pray  
The unexpected courtesy,  
the thoughtful, kindly deed.  
A hand reached out to help us  
in the time of sudden need.  
Oh make us more aware, dear God,  
of little daily graces.  
That come to us with "sweet surprise"  
from never-dreamed-of places.



## WORDS OF WISDOM

Middle age is when you take more hot  
baths  
than cold showers.  
Stan

## HUMOR

Said a preacher:

"If God tells me to jump thru a stone wall  
I'm going to jump, it's up to him to make the  
hole."

Many people sow wild oats on Saturday night,  
then come to the church on Sunday praying for a  
crop failure.

## His Mysterious Ways

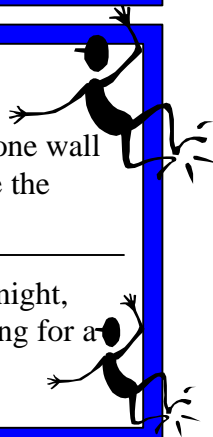
**W**e were sitting at the table in our Florida home and talking to our next door neighbors. This young couple had helped us a lot in the past year and a half, after my stroke and my husband's leg injury.

Unexpectedly, the husband began telling us the story of his troubled past. At age 16 he'd fallen in with the wrong crowd in his hometown of Greenwood, South Carolina, and had spent a year in a reformatory. When he was released he'd had good intentions, but because of his record, he couldn't find a job.

He became desperate and decided to rob a local service station so he could have enough money to leave the state. He stole his father's car and gun and just before closing time, drove up to the service window of a gasoline station. He was about to demand all the money from the woman manager.

"But just then," he explained, "I looked up and saw the sign overhead. It read, 'God Is Our Security Guard-Always On The Job.' And I knew I couldn't rob that place. I then rushed home and prayed all night. I was determined to get my life straightened out. And with God's help, I did."

As he finished, I looked at my husband. Both of us remembered a night 13 years ago when I sat at our kitchen table in the same town of Greenwood, South Carolina, trying to make a sign for our business. I had scribbled down several words. Then finally it came, the slogan that my husband put on the sign that stood on the roof of the small service station that we managed: God Is Our Security Guard-Always On The Job.



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### YOUR MOVE

**I**n the game of chess the objective is that the last move be yours. A lesson well learned is that the last move is not necessarily our best move; the last move only marks the end of the game, to announce a winner. Recently I received a computer chess set which has given me a new frustration. The computer has eight levels of play of which I am still on the first.

The other night we were engaged in fierce battle and after about three hours of play, I finally had the computer on the run; the smell of blood was in the air. Knowing I might have a chance of winning, my play became even more deliberate. I surveyed the board and realized my only chance of winning was to make a bold move and sacrifice my bishop. I made the move, the computer took my bishop and I moved in to check his king. This left him only one move after which I made my move and put his king in checkmate. The game was over and I had won.

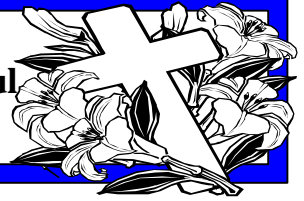
Reflecting back on the game, I realized the most important move in the game was the sacrifice of the bishop. I had to give up something to gain something; I had to lose to win. Is my life like that chess game, a constant warring of wills and desires, of decisions and contemplation's with God as the playmaker?

Are there occasions when in his divine judgement I must lose to win? The bishop which was sacrificed was not sacrificed out of vengeance but was given over to the enemy that the enemy might be overtaken.

In Romans 8:28 I relinquish the bishops in my life, for in the game of life it is not win, lose or draw. The stakes are eternal. During the game of life I am willing to lose so that the last move of my life will declare me a winner. Heaven is filled with winners who lost to win. Hell is filled with losers who won, only to lose.

Stan Manley  
...my shepherd newsletter

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
**To Encourage the Faithful**  
**To Save the Lost.**



**F**or God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

It's your responsibility, do it today.



### PARENT PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them, talking back to them and contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children and to ask of them forgiveness when I know that I have done them wrong.

May not I vainly hurt the feelings of my children. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame and ridicule as punishment.

Blind me to little errors of my children, and help me to see the good things that they do. Give me a ready word to honest praise.

Help me to grow up with my children, to treat them as those of their own age, but let me not expect of them the judgments and conventions of adults. Allow me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait upon themselves, to think, to choose and to make decisions.

Make me so fair and just, so considerate and companionable to my children that they will have a genuine esteem for me. Fit me to be loved and imitated by my children.

Author Unknown

### HUMOR

How to get rid of a Minister:

Look him straight in the eye when he is preaching and say, "Amen" once in a while and he'll preach himself to death in a few weeks.