



## Satan is Trying My Faith

*“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” Psalm 23:6 NKJV*

### Number 30 in the series “The Lord is My Shepherd”

Whenever we are being bombarded by temptations or in the midst of trials and suffering, especially when they go on for years, it is so important that we stay close to Jesus, daily praying and reading the Bible because the Bible tells us in 1 Peter 5:8 (NIV), *“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”* Satan is always trying to destroy our trust and faith in God’s goodness and mercy toward us. However, I believe he works even harder trying to fill our hearts and minds with doubt, unbelief, and lies about God’s love and care for us whenever we are in painful situations.

Luke Chapter 4 tells us that Jesus was being tempted by the devil and how Jesus stood victorious. He did not try to battle the devil in the flesh. He battled him with the sword of the Spirit, which Ephesians 6:17 tells us is the Word of God. Beloved, we need to follow Jesus’ example daily. We cannot wait until we are in the midst of the battle to reach for our Bible and try to find scriptures. A soldier is trained for battle ahead of time. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (KJV) reads, *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; 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.”*

Beloved, we are in a war—a war against our faith in Christ and His goodness and mercy in our lives. How we go through the temptations, trials, and sufferings will depend on the depth of our relationship with Christ. John 10:10,11 (NASB) reads, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and might have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”* Satan is a thief. In the midst of painful situations in our lives when he is trying to steal, kill, and destroy our trust in Jesus, it is important that we have it firmly rooted in our hearts that God loves us so much that He sent Christ to die for us. Having laid down His life for us on the cross, He will not desert us in the midst of the battle.

Beloved, like some of you, I am in some fierce battles right now, but I know my God is faithful, and His amazing grace is taking me through my pain. I want to encourage you with Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB) which reads, *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’”* Beloved, do not let the devil steal your faith and trust in Jesus.

— Janice McBride

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