

# Psalms 23:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

## Analysis

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The Hebrew 'nephesh' (soul) encompasses the whole person—life, vitality, and being—not merely emotions. 'Restoreth' (shuw) means to return, turn back, or bring back, suggesting restoration from wandering or depletion. The phrase 'paths of righteousness' (literally 'tracks of rightness') indicates God's guidance along right ways. The motivation 'for his name's sake' reveals that God's glory, not our merit, drives His faithful care, guaranteeing His commitment. This anticipates the restoration Christ offers to wandering sinners (Luke 15:4-7; 1 Peter 2:25).

## Historical Context

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Shepherds were responsible for returning lost or straying sheep to the flock and to proper paths. David understood both the shepherd's duty and his own tendency to wander from God, themes evident throughout his psalms of repentance (Psalm 51).

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. In what ways has your soul needed restoration recently, and have you experienced God's faithfulness in this?
2. How does knowing that God leads you 'for his name's sake' provide security beyond your own worthiness?

## Interlinear Text

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|------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| נַפְשִׁי י | יְשׁוּבֶיךָ ב | יְנִיחֶנִּי | בְּמַעְגְּלֶיךָ | צַדִּיק          | לְמַעַן |
| my soul    | He restoreth  | he leadeth  | me in the paths | of righteousness |         |
| H5315      | H7725         | H5148       | H4570           | H6664            | H4616   |

  

|                |
|----------------|
| שְׁמֶךָ:       |
| for his name's |
| H8034          |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 42:16** (Parallel theme): And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

**Psalms 31:3** (Parallel theme): For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

**Psalms 19:7** (Parallel theme): The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

**Psalms 51:10** (Parallel theme): Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

**Psalms 5:8** (Righteousness): Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

**Psalms 51:12** (Parallel theme): Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

**Job 33:30** (Parallel theme): To bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living.

**Proverbs 8:20** (Righteousness): I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

**Revelation 3:19** (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

**Psalms 79:9** (Parallel theme): Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

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