

## A prayer of Psalm 23 and 143

Written by Bobbi Smick

Oh, Lord, You are my shepherd;  
I have everything I need...

Yet, Lord, my emotions and actions betray me...  
for there are moments I feel insecure with You...there are moments I take control overriding Your good will for me for I fear You won't act in time...there are moments I want to be on top and resort to unkindness towards others - especially those I love... there are moments I scramble to outwardly put on righteous behavior in order to appear godly.

These are the enemies I face, which crush me, cause me to dwell in darkness, cause my heart within me to be dismayed; my spirit grows faint and fails...

When I walk through the darkest valley, You call me to remember and meditate on Your works and consider what You have done. Remembering leads to a grateful and thankful heart. And my soul is restored by You as You let me rest in green meadows, as You lead me beside peaceful streams, and as You renew my strength and guide me along right paths.

You silence and defeat these many enemies...many of my own making. I need not be afraid of them nor turn towards them for You are close beside me; You bring me word of Your unfailing love every morning to remind me to put my trust in You...to hide myself in You, to show me the way I should go.

For Your Name's sake, You preserve my life.

You honor me

before my enemies as a sign of Your goodness and unfailing love towards me. Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.

I am Your servant. Cradle me in Your protective arms  
for You are my Shepherd.

