

# THE CONVICTIONS OF A PASTOR



General Conference  
Ministerial Association

*“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;*



*your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

*Psalm 23*



# **1- The Lord is his Shepherd**





- A pastor is interested in the well-being of his flock
- God is interested in me and my well-being

- A pastor looks after his flock
- God looks after me and my family

- A pastor is attentive to the needs of his flock
- God is attentive to my needs

- A pastor guides his flock along safe paths
- God guides me along safe paths



- A pastor protects his flock
- God protects me and my family

- **A pastor knows his sheep**
- **God knows my needs, strengths and weaknesses**

- A pastor confronts wild beasts to protect his sheep
- The Lord will fight on my behalf to protect me from evil in all its forms

*“The shepherd went before his sheep, and met all the dangers. He encountered the wild beasts and the robbers. Sometimes the shepherd was killed while guarding his flock.”*

*SJ 76*

*“Jesus is the good Shepherd. His followers are the sheep of His pasture. A shepherd is always with his flock to defend them, to keep them from the wolves, to hunt up the lost sheep and carry them back to the fold, to lead them beside green pastures and beside living waters.”*

*LHU 215*



**2- He will lack nothing**



“The Lord is my shepherd,  
*I lack nothing...*”



- He will not lack any talent to do his job.
- He will not lack patience in dealing with sinners and facing difficult times.
- He will not lack daily drive to do his work.

- He will not lack time to have a relationship with his Pastor.
- He will not lack discernment to make good decisions.
- He will not lack sympathy to understand his leaders or his flock.

*“For the Lord gives  
wisdom; from his mouth  
come knowledge and  
understanding.”*

*Proverbs 2:6*





*“If anyone of you lacks wisdom,  
you should ask God, who gives  
generously to all without finding  
fault, and it will be given to you.”*

*James 1:5*



What are the  
things lacking in  
my ministry?



- More prayer?
- More time dedicated to Bible study?
- More commitment to the work?
- More love for the sheep I shepherd?

- More Christ-centered preaching?
- More spirit of humility?
- More understanding towards those I guide and those who guide me?
- A better example for my family?
- A better relationship with my spouse?

**3- Nothing will  
cause him to fear**



*“Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil...”*

*Psalms 23:4*



- Is not afraid to face great challenges.
- Is not afraid to go to any area where he is sent.
- Has no fear as to whether or not he reaches the proposed goals.
- Does not fear for the future because all of it is in God's Hands.

**4- God's company is  
the reason for his  
sense of safety**



*“...for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.”*

*Vs. 4*



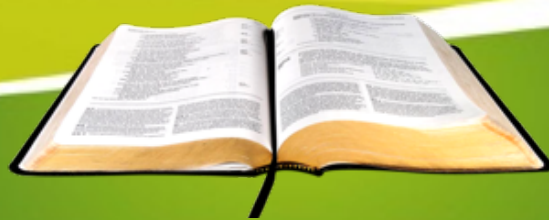
- He is aware that God walks by his side.
- He feels the presence of God in his life and this encourages him and makes him feel safe.



- What gives him a sense of safety is not his own ability, talent or experience.
- What makes him feel secure is knowing that God is always by his side.
- He wholeheartedly trusts the divine promises.

*“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

*Isaiah 41:10*

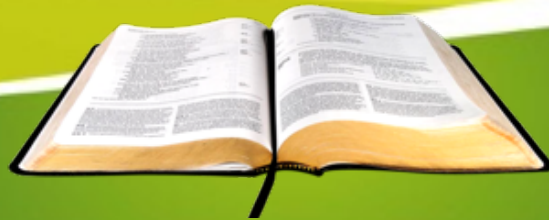


# **5- He feasts at the Lord's table**



*“You prepare a table  
before me...”*

*Vs. 5*



- The Bible is his daily nourishment.
- He seeks nourishment from the counsel of the spirit of prophecy.
- He feeds upon the positive experiences of others.
- He feeds upon all the good things that God works in his life.



He will not receive  
nourishment from:



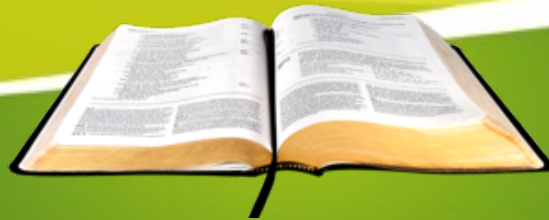
- Gossip coming from every direction and which destroys good leaders.
- His own theories that end up affecting him and the church he is leading.
- The internet, using it to preach to his flock.
- Sensationalist teaching that ends up affecting the flock and his own life.

**6- He daily pleads  
and feels the  
divine anointing**



*“You anoint my head  
with oil...”*

*Vs. 5*



- Daily asks for divine anointing.
- Through prayer, he pleads with God for the company of the Holy Spirit.
- Does not embark in any work without first seeking heavenly approval.
- To him, God's blessings become a necessity and not an option.

*“As a shepherd of sheep, Moses learned to care for the afflicted, to nurse the sick, to seek patiently after the straying, to bear long with the unruly, to supply with loving solicitude the wants of the young lambs and the necessities of the old and feeble.*



*In this experience he was drawn nearer to the Chief Shepherd. He became united to, submerged in, the Holy One of Israel. He believed in the great God. He held communion with the Father through humble prayer.”*

*CT 407*

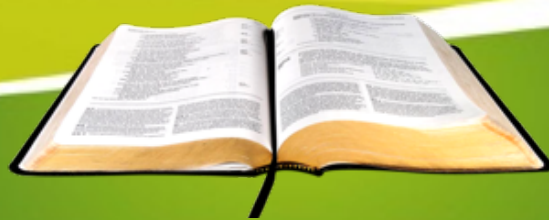


**7- From his heart  
flows living water  
for others**



*“...My cup overflows.”*

*Vs. 5*



- He feeds his sheep from what he receives from above.
- He gives from what he receives from God.
- His heart is a fountain of living water that satisfies the spiritual needs of his church.

*“He was to be the shepherd of God’s people; and through his firm faith and abiding trust in the Lord, many blessings were to come to the children of Israel.”*

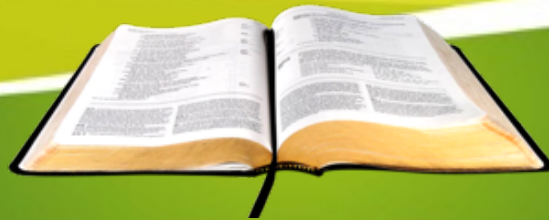
*CT 408*

**8- He strives to do  
good and to be  
merciful**



*“Surely your goodness  
and love will follow me all  
the days of my life...”*

*Vs. 6*





- Doing good is his constant goal.
- To act mercifully is his way of life.
- He does not allow an opportunity to pass by without doing what is good.

- Treats the sheep in his fold with special love.
- Puts into practice the counsel given in Proverbs 3:27-28

*“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, ‘Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you’—when you already have it with you.”*

*Proverbs 3:27-28*



# **9- He is sure of eternal life**



*“...and I will dwell in the  
house of the Lord  
forever.”*

*Vs. 6*



- Salvation is his chosen goal.
- The salvation of his family is his chief objective.
- The salvation of his church is the reason why he is in the ministry.

- The rescuing of souls for heaven is the essence of his work.
- To see the face of Jesus is the greatest desire of his life.

# Conclusion

- That the Lord be his Pastor.
- That he should lack nothing that he needs for his ministry.

- That God takes care of him in all his ways.
- That God's power encourages him daily and God's company be always with him so that soon he may dwell with Jesus in the Kingdom of Heaven.