

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

1. Many of us **STRUGGLE** to have confidence that God is with us.
2. The Bible is God's **STORY** of his love for all people. Consider what we have:

We have this **MESSAGE** from God that He genuinely loves us.

We have his **INTERACTION** with humans throughout history.

We have his **ENTRANCE** into human history in Jesus.

We have Jesus' death on a cross that reveals the **HEART** of God that would stop at nothing to bring us into relationship.

We have been **WELCOMED** into God's family.

We have a **FUTURE** with God.