

# Devotions for Fall

## “BEING”

Being with God, being at home in ourselves where God always resides, is a significant part of having faith. Spend some time each day for the next couple of months just being with the God who meets all our needs.

1. *“The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1)*  
Many people find comfort and support in these words. Use them and the rest of this Psalm as springboards for your own devotional and meditative time with God.

2. One of the longest treasured images of “salvation”, of God’s unending care and concern for humankind was found in Medieval art depicting Mary nursing the infant Jesus. Believers observing such pictures were able to imagine themselves as the recipients of God’s all-providing divine nurture. Under the influence of secularization and other factors, this picture virtually disappeared from the realm of art after 1750. The cross



became the more central symbol of salvation. Margaret Myles, an American professor of Church History asks: *“Can we recover the symbol of the nursing breast? In a society where violence prevails, how much more do we need the nursing Christ than the sacrificial victim?”*

Use this image also at times as a springboard for your time of being with God.

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## “DOING”

Doing is the other side of the coin of faith. The love we receive from God is answered by our love in worship and in offering service to others in the spirit of Jesus.

Take some time to examine what you already are doing as a disciple and servant of Christ. Ponder and pray. What’s worth continuing? What might be dropped? What new activity or mission might be undertaken?

The image for this last question can be symbolized in the post-resurrection story in the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of the gospel of John. Peter and five other disciples are back in Galilee. They decide to go fishing but have no luck all night long. At dawn, a stranger from the shore calls out to them. He suggests they try something different:

*“throw your nets over on the other side of the boat.”*

They do and land a huge catch of fish. It doesn’t take a lot of rocket science for the disciples to figure out who that stranger was.

What might it mean for you to go fishing on the other side of the boat?

What might it mean for your congregation, or the church to fish on the other side of the boat?

