

**THE NAMES OF THE FATHER**  
Part VIII  
*Psalm 23*

Introduction: The capacious spectrum of God's attributes simply amazes me. Every area of man's need is addressed by God. Any wonder the song writer wrote, "*Oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*" In this continuum, it is imperative that we digest the ebullient Scriptures and succumb to their guide. Preachers often take us on a circuitous journey, compromising the Word and leaving us confused rather than enlightened.

I. The names of the Father

A. Almighty God, *El Shaddai*.

1. In the New Testament, the name Almighty (in the Greek, it is Pantokrator) occurs 12 times; 9 of them are in the book of Revelation. The same tough and tender sides of God's nature are revealed here in the use of the name Almighty. He will faithfully reward the believer for good works, and He will pour out judgments on the willful unbeliever. Note Revelation 1:8.
2. *El Shaddai*, the Almighty God, is the name believers should know and trust. If the mountain that you face is not immediately removed, He will give us the grace necessary to climb it.
3. James 1:2. James explains that (1) trials and tests are inevitable, (2) they are "various" or different, and (3) they need not defeat us, but can actually be met with joy. Problems do not indicate that we are a failure; they only present a challenge that we can meet in the name of the Lord.

II. Application

A. Six guidelines. Each is related to the character of *El Shaddai* and will help believers face and overcome problems.

1. Separate yourself from sin. Many of our problems come because of sin in our lives. It is the nature of sin to defeat, destroy, dilute, and damage the child of God. Notice 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:17-18. The principle is to separate from sin. *El Shaddai* is still both strong to save and tender to help. But if we harbor sin in our lives, He cannot be merely tender and kind; He must judge.
2. We should seek *El Shaddai*. The Almighty is tender and wants to help His children, but He wants us to actively seek Him.
3. We should rest in the presence of *El Shaddai*. He is as close to you as a mother is. A mother tenderly watches over and cares for her child. Psalm 91:1.
4. We should follow the directions of *El Shaddai*. As creatures born into sin, it is difficult to obey. We want to do things our way. Remember Genesis 17:1.
5. We should evaluate our spiritual health. Do you ever feel God is chastening you? Hebrews 12:5-11.

B. In the book of Ruth, we read how Naomi and her husband Elimelech disobeyed God by leaving Israel. While they prospered for a short time, her husband and both her sons all died. After she was stripped of everything, she returned to her hometown where God intended her to be in the first place. Ruth 1:20-21. God wants to be your strength and your satisfaction.

1. We should claim the provision of *El Shaddai*. Because God is faithful and strong to save you, He will take care of you. When God has called you to some avocation, remember God's promise in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:24. You can endure any pressure because you know God is faithful no matter what.
2. When old Jacob was facing death, he wanted to bless his grandsons, and he wanted them to walk in obedience to God. So he gave them the promise of *El Shaddai*: "The Almighty shall bless you with blessings." Genesis 49:25. Jacob, who had experienced both the blessings and the punishment of *El Shaddai*, knew that these two aspects of His nature would guide his grandchildren, if they followed the Lord.

Conclusion: These inalienable promises are given for our benefit, and they should be used to enhance our lives. We are created for His purpose, and we should line up our lives with His uncompromising Word. We cannot lose if we follow Him.