



DIVING DEEPER

LIVING WHAT WE LEARN

"EVEN IN THE VALLEY"

Psalm 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Being in a valley does not mean God has abandoned you.

1. THE VALLEY IS SOMETHING YOU WALK THROUGH

"Yea, though I walk through the valley..."

The valley is not necessarily your destination.
It may simply be part of your journey.

What valley are you walking in right now? (financial, family, marriage, children, bad news, health, grief, job, etc.)

**Valleys have entrances...
But valleys also have exits.**

Have you ever made a permanent decision because of a temporary valley?

Have you ever surrendered in the middle of what God was bringing you through?



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David refers to “walking” through the valley not “running”, what does this mean to you in reference to how your faith should be?

Are you able to wake up and continue to say “God, I am still trusting you today”?

Are you able to keep putting one foot in front of the other?

Are you able to keep being faithful when it is difficult?

Are you taking it day by day?

2. THE SHADOW CANNOT DESTROY YOU

What is a shadow (in your own words)?

Should a shadow frighten you?

Should a shadow be fearful?

Can a shadow hurt you?

A shadow may look intimidating but it doesn’t have the power of the thing that is casting it!

How often does fear work through shadows?



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Before something can hurt us we have fear making us experience something bad in our minds?

Fear says:

- **"What if this happens?"**
- **"What if that happens?"**
- **"What if you lose everything?"**
- **"What if your family doesn't make it?"**
- **"What if the situation gets worse?"**
- **"What if God doesn't come through?"**

David says "I will fear no evil" he doesn't say that there isn't evil!

Faith is NOT pretending that nothing bad ever happens. It is remaining in reality and saying "My God is greater than what I am facing".

Can you say that about your situation?

Can you refuse to allow fear to become your master?

3. GOD IS WITH YOU IN THE VALLEY



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"For Thou art with me."

David shifts here, from talking ABOUT God to talking TO God.

Does it get more personal with you and God when you go through a valley?

There are things you learn about God in the valley that you could never learn beside the still waters.

What did you go through that took you from knowing He was God to He is YOUR God?

What did you go through that now you can say you have EXPERIENCED HIS FAITHFULNESS?

What did you go through that now you have EXPERIENCED peace that surpasses understanding?

What was a time in your life that when you came out of that valley it changed your testimony from "I heard God can" to "I Know God can"?

"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

A shepherd's rod represented **protection**.

His staff represented **guidance**.



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In other words: God will protect me from what comes against me, and God will guide me when I don't know where to go.

You don't have to know everything the Shepherd knows. You just have to stay close to the Shepherd.

Have you ever thought that the valley canceled the promises of God?

Have you thought the valley meant God forgot you?

Have you thought the valley meant your story is over?

Where does David end up in Psalm 23?

He doesn't stay in the valley!

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

He walks through the valley.

Can you do the same thing? Can you keep walking and get through with Jesus?

Is He enough to be able to walk through it with?

Is Jesus enough?



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Is He a good enough Shepherd?

Can you trust Him when you don't see the exit yet?

Can you not quit when the shadows of death start to scare you?

Can you put one foot in front of the other and keep walking?

What can you get through when God is beside you?

Will you trust your shepherd and keep walking?

What stood out or spoke to you today?

What do you need to do to take your next step in faithfulness to Jesus Christ?

What do you need to do to take your next step in being part of the body at A New Beginning Church?