



"CALMLY FOLLOWING THE GREAT SHEPHERD"

Our comforting "Walk Through the 23rd Psalm" #5

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me;" Psalm 23:4

Generally speaking, nothing frightens us more than our own death. And although we know it's inevitable, we avoid thinking and talking about it as much as possible... our entire lives.

We take care to teach our children how to avoid danger ("Look both ways "Don't eat that!" "Wash your hands") to help them grow up and live a long life, which is appropriate. But here in this verse of the famous and comforting 23rd Psalm, David paints a word picture for us about the times when we go through challenging events, even to the extent that they may be leading to our own death. His focus is not so much how difficult the situation may be... but on the closeness of the Lord in that situation.

I remember one time as a child and catching the flu. Getting sick was the worst feeling for me in those days, but I remember my mom being right with me, a hand gently on my back. It was comforting and, in retrospect, amazing.

Our Shepherd does essentially the same. The NLT version says it this way: "**Even**

when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me." Like my mom was when I was a child, HE is CLOSE beside YOU – whatever you're going through... whatever. He knows what's ahead and wants to guide YOU, His child, through it. Therefore, there is no need to be afraid. What could be better than to have Almighty God with you as you go through whatever it is you are going through?

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for walking with me through ALL of the difficult times in my life. I'm sorry I haven't always acknowledged Your presence, but in retrospect and looking forward, I am forever grateful. I get it: You want to take away my fear and replace it with the comfort of Your presence and Your love. Thank you so much! Amen.