



Freedom From the Fear of Evil

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)

Number 15 in the series “The Lord is My Shepherd”

We live in a world full of evil, and when we look at a newspaper or listen to the daily news, world events could terrify us. Then there are all of the valleys of the shadow of death that Christians are walking through daily. As I minister in churches throughout the U.S. and in other countries and see and hear one horror story after another, I am constantly bombarded with the evil in this world. It would be easy to give in to fear countless times a day, yet this scripture reads, *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me...”*

There is no denial here, no burying the head in the sand and refusing to face facts. The psalmist acknowledges he is in a valley. Evil surrounds him. There is a lot about which he could be fearful. He clearly evaluates his situation and how serious it is. Then he makes a choice of his will: I will fear no evil. How could he say this in the midst of danger? Was it because he was a “strong person”? No, it was because of his relationship with his Shepherd. He had been in many dangerous situations and could confidently and boldly say, *“...I will fear no evil; for You are with me...”*

As a young shepherd boy, David had firsthand experience of God’s power, strength, and protection many times. Once he fought and killed a lion that was attacking his sheep. Once he fought and killed a bear to save the lives of the sheep. To care for the sheep, David had battled blistering heat, freezing storms, raging winds, swollen rivers and constant

attacks by different wild beasts. Over and over again, he had been in the shadow of death and in the midst of evil. His trust and confidence in God’s protection to safely bring him through each valley situation was based on experience. David could boldly say, because of experience, my God is with me.

Beloved believer, are you in a valley of evil today? Are you in a situation that is like a lion or a bear trying to destroy you? Are you battling a heated situation, or is someone trying to freeze you with rejection, a job loss, or a divorce? Are you battling raging winds and swollen rivers of turmoil in your home and in your finances or constant attacks against your health?

Do not listen to the lies of Satan. Jesus has not left you alone. He is in your valley with you. He will not leave you there. He is teaching you to trust Him. The valleys of life are where we need to draw closer to Jesus and where we will find He is always close to us. God’s amazing grace has faithfully taken me through many, many valleys. And I know and I have an assurance that He is with me in the ones that I am in now. Unbeliever, put your trust in Jesus as your Savior. He will never fail you.

— *Janice McBride*

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