



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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God's Divine Presence!

Scripture: 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.

The twenty-third psalm has been a mainstay for multitudes of Christians who have lived by its precepts of hope and faith for centuries. What comforting notes the psalmist rings in this intensely personal psalm! Because of the greatness of the Good Shepherd, we are safe and satisfied in His great care.

We often walk through dismal valleys where we are surrounded by many potential pitfalls, but under the guidance and protection of the Great Shepherd there is nothing to fear. **God will protect His people and care for them during times that are dangerous or difficult.** Death casts a frightening shadow over us because we are entirely helpless in its presence. We can struggle with other enemies—pain, suffering, disease, injury—but strength and courage cannot overcome death. It has the final word. Only one person can walk with us through death's dark valley and bring us safely to the other side—the God of life, our Shepherd. Because life is uncertain, we should follow the Good Shepherd who offers us eternal comfort. The psalmist said: *"He brought them [us] out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder"* (Psalm 107:14).

David said: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* (Psalm 27:1). Even though fear has bound many people today. Many people—both young and old—suffer panic attacks. Fear is debilitating; it paralyzes its victims and leaves them unable to live normal and productive lives. The apostle Paul admonished Timothy, *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"* (2 Timothy 1:7). Maybe Paul leaned heavily on 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."*

The reason we do not need to fear is that the presence of Jesus Christ is with us! The Lord of heaven and earth is continually at our side. Apostle Paul considered the presence of God a protective assurance: *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"* (Romans 8:31). David knew that the great Shepherd is our rescuer and defender in the valleys of life.

David found great comfort in the Lord's rod and staff—in His ability to give him protection and security. There are many things that bring comfort to different people. Just the mere presence of Jesus Christ among His disciples provided such comfort to Peter that he left the boat to walk on water toward Jesus. When he began to sink, it was a comfort that Jesus was there to lift him up and save him.

Whatever we may consider objects of comfort to us, one thing is clearly a comfort to all of us: **when we need Him most,** God will be with us and He will comfort us. After all, He is the Comforter who dwells in the hearts of true believers. Apostle John tells us that Jesus said: *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever... But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you"* (John 14:16, 26).

We have the **divine presence of God** while we journey through this life, for he will not leave us. He is there to encourage us during our life's battle and trials. When we pass through the waters or rivers or fire, they will not overtake you. Also, He assures us that even when two or three are gathered together I'm in the midst, and will be with us until the end, and will give us rest. **God's divine protection** is camp round about them that fear Him. His eyes run to and fro throughout the earth, and His feathers shall cover us and under His wings we shall trust, His truth shall be our shield and buckler. Therefore, the LORD is round His people as a wall of fire and you shall not perish.

God provides for and protects us here on earth with great care and concern. God not only provides for His people while on this earth but also has prepared a home for them so that they may dwell with Him eternally. We must obey our Good Shepherd and follow His leading with trust, for He knows what is best for us.