

## In My Moments of Deep Distress

*"Even 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

(New Living Translation)

- This is the most famous psalm in the entire Bible!
- The reason is clear—the picture of a **caring** shepherd is an unforgettable image of God!
- The **words** used unlock even deeper strength from the psalm.

What is the "valley of the **shadow of death**"?

The words are actually **one** word which is translated = "deep darkness" (Job 24:17)

- ❖ The term is used to describe the darkness that people try to hide in when they cover evil actions—see Job 24:13-16.
- ❖ Psalm 107:10-14 uses the term to describe the feeling that accompanies rebellion against God.
- ❖ Jeremiah 13:16 says deep darkness can be "God's judgment".  
Job 12:22 uses it as "confusion".
- ❖ Jeremiah 2:6 uses the term to describe "a lonely desert".
- ❖ Amos 5:8 uses the term to signify the "darkness moments of the night".

**Conclusion** = "Valley of the shadow of death" is a rich phrase that encompasses **all** of life's dark, overwhelming experiences.

Which ones are you facing today? It would be **helpful** for you to write down the ones challenging you today: \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Pinpoint your greatest fear about these matters:

"God, if you don't come to my aid . . . . \_\_\_\_\_!"

**Remember** → "even though I walk through the valley . . . ."

We don't **live** in the valley,

We **walk** through the valley of the shadow!

*"The **eyes** of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."*

II Chronicles 16:9  
(NLT)

"EYES" = of the Lord constantly moving.

- ✓ He is searching for someone (anyone) who will trust him completely.

When he finds such a person, he's going to strongly **support** that man or woman, girl or boy.

He is going to come alongside **you**.

He is going to help you.

He is going to be present and **powerful** in you no matter how challenging the situation!

### **Because**

God is going to do amazing things in and through your life!

**I WILL FEAR NO ONE,  
I WILL FEAR NO TROUBLE or EVIL,  
BECAUSE  
God is with me!**

That great thought "God is with me" carries me through every day,  
every difficulty,  
every frightening situation,  
every money challenge,  
every personal challenge,  
**God is with me—PERIOD!**

God commits to do those things for you and with you in **whatever** circumstance you find yourself!

Is it time for you to make a similar commitment to Him?

Your response to God  
is to

"confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved."

(Romans 10:9)

We will be happy to pray with you at the close of this worship time.