



LIVING LOGOS
MINISTRIES

The Living Logos

Teaching Newsletter

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The Valley of the Shadow of Death ~ Pastor Trey Dickerson

As we continue our look through the 23rd Psalm, I would like us to focus on what David said in verse 4— *“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 staff, they comfort me.”* So will this good life that God has planned for us to live contain trials, tribulation and persecution? The Holy Spirit, through David, foreseeing this says, “Yea” (or, Yes!). Absolutely, our faith will be tried at times! Sure, some of our journey will take us through these dark valleys. But what I want us to focus on today is what our attitude should be through these dark times.

First of all, notice the transition we see in this Psalm through this verse: What we see now is not the sheep making their boast in what their shepherd does for them; we see the sheep actually addressing the shepherd himself. After saying, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,” David says to the Lord his

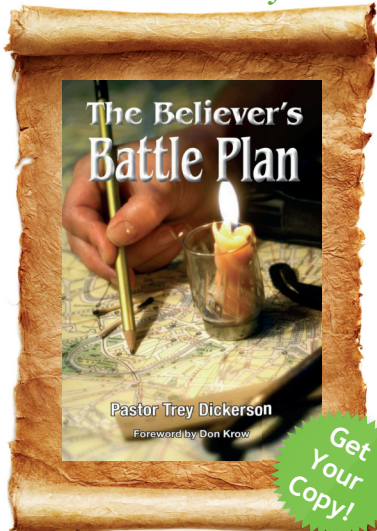
Shepherd, “For you are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” What this teaches me is that while there is a time and a place for proclaiming who He is to you,

there is also a time and a place for addressing Him personally and telling Him who is to you. Amen? Yes, both are evidently important to do.

And again, notice that what we say is obviously important—specifically when it comes to the many different fears that come up against us as we are walking through these valleys



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A WORD FROM SHANNON

We all know the story of David and Goliath. I personally believe that David would never have had the boldness to face Goliath had he not first been face to face with His Creator. The Lord so desires to pour all that He is out on His children and being in His presence is the way to receive all that He is- in and for us.

We have an AWESOME DADDY!! He does not see you the way you see yourself. When He looks at you, He

sees Jesus! I know that might make some of your heads tilt but it’s true.

I heard this statement years ago and it’s one I’ll never forget. It says, “**God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called.**” It doesn’t matter what you’ve accomplished in the natural, how smart you are, how much money you have or anything else, if you know your God, you can face any trial that comes your way and always triumph victoriously! As Daniel 11:32 says, “...but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits.”

("The Valley of the Shadow of Death" continued)

of the shadow of death. You see, there are several Scriptures that teach us that fear is something that we are to counter with our words. For example, in Hebrews 13:6, we see one of the author's bold proclamations was, "I will not fear!" Now ironically enough, the writer of Hebrews included in this declaration that he would not fear, because this is the subject matter of Psalm 23:4. In it, David also declares "I will fear no evil!"

You see, there is an important truth found in this—and that is that the best way to counter fear-filled thoughts is through faith-filled words. Yes, when fear tries to grip our hearts, we can replace it by speaking words of faith. So, an important aspect of walking through these valleys where fears abound is by verbally retaliating. Amen?

And the way we can do this is by understanding that walking through the valley of the shadow of death does not mean that we are to pitch camp there. No, David said we are walking through these dark valleys. This is important because this is exactly what so many Christians do—they pitch camp right slap dab in the middle of the valley of the shadow of death. Yes, like the children of Israel, the majority of Christians today like to wander around in the wilderness, in the valleys around the same mountains. Some do this because they like the sympathy they receive and because they like the attention it gives them.

Saints, our testimony should not be that of having pitched camp in these valleys. As Christ's disciples, we are called to "go to the other side!" And that is exactly why we need not fear these unavoidable valleys that we will travel through as long as we are in this world. Jesus said that in this world we will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, He overcame the world! So, yes, even though we will have valleys and tribulations that will touch us all, we are passing through them. Therefore, we ought to know that if we just don't quit and if we just keep the faith, we will get to the other side. Amen!?!

Secondly, notice that this valley is called "the valley of the shadow of death." It is not death itself; it is just the shadow of death. Now a shadow of a dog never bit anyone, right? A

shadow holds no power. Therefore, death holds no power over our lives. It is only the fear of death that we deal with. So, let me ask you a question: What is it that is the root of all fears? What is it that people ultimately fear? Now we have all kinds of things that we specifically are afraid of such as the fear of heights, the fear of snakes, claustrophobia, arachnophobia, etc.

But what are all of these "phobias" rooted in? I can tell you: they are all ultimately rooted in the fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15 reveals to us that living in fear should not be the case for a Christian! We should not fear death or anything else for that matter because, saints, even if the worst happens and we die, we still win! We are still going to heaven, glory to God! Therefore, we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus who loved us!

So, I encourage you today to determine to walk through those valleys of the shadow of death. Reject the temptation to fear and cross over to the other side today. The Promised Land is waiting for you. Take possession! Amen and amen!

Victoriously,



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