

## **Don't Be Scared!**

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." – Psalm 23:4 (NIV)

Fear is a powerful emotion. It whispers doubts into our minds, paralyzes us from moving forward, and clouds our faith. Whether it's fear of the unknown, fear of failure, or fear of the challenges ahead, it can leave us feeling stuck and powerless. But God's Word reminds us that we don't have to live in fear. Psalm 23:4 is a declaration of confidence and trust in the presence and protection of God, even in life's darkest moments.

David, the author of this psalm, speaks of walking through the "darkest valley." He doesn't deny the reality of trials, tribulations, or danger. Instead, he boldly declares, "I will fear no evil." Why? Because God is with him. His shepherd our shepherd does not abandon His flock. His rod protects us, His staff guides us, and His presence comforts us.

As believers, we have access to this same assurance. Life will inevitably bring its valleys: moments of uncertainty, hardship, or pain. But we are never alone. God walks with us, strengthening us, and leading us to places of safety and restoration. Fear loses its grip when we recognize that the Creator of the universe is actively present in our lives, both in the natural and the spiritual.

It's natural to feel scared at times. However, we don't have to stay there. Fear should not control our choices or dictate our future. Instead, let it be a signal that points us back to God's promises. When fear rises, let's respond by declaring: "The Lord is my shepherd; I will not be afraid."

Are you facing a shadowy valley today? Maybe it's a health scare, a broken relationship, financial struggles, or uncertainty about your next steps. Whatever it is, remember this: God is bigger than your fear. He is with you, walking beside you every step of the way. You can trust Him to lead, protect, and comfort you as you move forward in faith.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for being my shepherd and my protector. In times of fear, remind me of Your presence and power. Help me to trust in You completely, knowing that You will never leave me nor forsake me. Guide me through life's valleys, and fill my heart with peace and courage. In Jesus' name, Amen.