



Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

This psalm offers a powerful contrast to the realities that we face in life and reinforces that God is with us in good times and bad. Verse 4 is a well-known line, and the New King James Version of the Bible reads: "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." The phrase "valley of the shadow of death," in ancient Hebrew, can also be translated as 'though I walk through death's darkest valley.'

QUESTION 1:

Do you have a time in your life when this line can be applied?

Did you feel God's presence?

If so, what was that like, and how did you feel God moving you through that time?

If not, how did you resolve that chapter in your life?

QUESTION 2:

The phrase "goodness and mercy shall follow me, All the days of my life,". In the ancient Hebrew, the word shall follow is more equivalent to our concept of pursue. Taken this way, what does "goodness and mercy shall pursue me, All the days of my life," look like?

ANSWERS