

January 31, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Ps. 23:4 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. (NIV)

This favorite and beautiful psalm is replete with the goodness of our God. To realize His love and watch-care over us gives us a wonderful sense of freedom. With Him watching over me, I can face all things because He gives me my strength. Yesterday, we looked at times when we seem to be on a mountain top with the LORD. But just as there are mountain tops, there are also times in the valleys of life. Times when it seems that He is far away. Someone wisely told me once that if the LORD seems far away, guess who moved. It certainly wasn't Him. He will never leave us or forsake us. David knew the pain of living on the run. King Saul wanted to end David's life. He thought that David was a threat to his throne. David, on the other hand, knew that even though he had been anointed as King, he was willing to wait for God's timing rather than his own. And so, whether it was as a young shepherd boy watching over his flock, or as a young warrior facing a giant named Goliath, or hiding in caves to stay away from King Saul, he knew that the LORD was with him. The rod and staff were carried by shepherds to direct wayward sheep and protect them from the attacks of predators. In the same way, the LORD was David's shepherd. He was with him, watching over him and leading him to the green pastures and the quiet waters. Many believe this was a picture of Ein Gedi, which in Hebrew meant "spring of the kid." It was an oasis in the dry area where David would hide from King Saul. It was lush with pure, clean water and foliage. It was there that he could refresh himself and feel safe from the one who was trying to take his life.

Do you have a place of spiritual rest? A place where you can just be still and know that He is God? If you will seek the LORD's face, He will lead you, even in times of trouble. He will always be there for you.

Dear LORD, thank You that You are our faithful God. You always have been and You always will be. No matter what we are facing, it is good to know that the ruler of all the universe is right there with us. Thank You LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen