



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 56

## **Valley**

Psalm 23:4 (NKJV),

*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 Your staff, they comfort me.*

O such a beautiful place to be! This is where one is surrounded by their enemies on all sides and it seems like the ground is being removed from underneath. Why would I say that this is a beautiful place to be? Well, it really is simple. This is a unique place where one can fully realize that our God is literally with us and we can see and feel it. Now, we know intellectually that God is always with us and that there is no place that we can go to run from His Presence. However, there is a difference between God being everywhere and God being manifest everywhere at a given time.

For the child of God who keeps in step with the Spirit, there will be times where it seems as if God is in some distant faraway land when all the while He is right with us. And there are times in this same season where we both feel that distance and then come to realize that even in this valley of deep darkness there is a sweet and still river prepared to restore our soul.

For this reason, I clarify again, that this is such a beautiful place to be! It is beautiful because of the beauty and majesty of Christ and His delight to be with us in the darkest of seasons of life. However, as stated before, there is an intellectual awareness and a manifest awareness of this beauty and majesty. In this difference, one can intellectually and through reason say, *'yea, I know in my mind that God is with me in this valley.'* And yet again, there is the manifest awareness, where one says, *'yea, I know that my God is with me and because of this I know and experience that sweet protection and comfort of the Holy Spirit.'*

There have been a great many times in my walk where I felt at such a distance from the Lord and that all around me was darkness. I have experienced these valleys often and yet as painful as they were there came a time in each valley

where I experienced the Presence of my Savior as if He were literally saying to me in my hour of darkness, 'come here child and be restored.' Again, I say, such a beautiful place to be!

The interesting thing about this darkest of valleys is the imminent danger we are often approached with from every angle. What I mean, is that for the child of God there will come a time when one feels estranged from the path of truth and that all of hell is barreling down on them. This seems evidenced by the circumstances that come against us and seem as if we had done something terribly wrong or even catastrophic to cause them. Enemies of our flesh and of our souls attempt to tear down what we hold true and yet somehow, we must stand firm in love and faith knowing who is with us. Yet, we become more acquainted with the beauty of Christ and His evidential Presence with us when we press into Him and allow Him to lead us through the valley's all the way to victory, for He is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or even imagine.

As I write this, I am just so thankful for these dark valleys, because it is here that I am ever more in recognition that my redeemer lives. This reminds me of the lyrics to 'Impossible Things,' by Chris Tomlin, that sings,

*Though I walk through the valley*

*Darkness surrounding me*

*There You prepare a table, hmm-hmm*

*In the presence of my enemies, yeah-eh*

This is such an amazing expression of the Providential care and comfort of God to not only deliver us but to prepare a table in the presence of our enemies. This really is a powerful illustration, but not one to be digested in an intellectual way. It is better to experience this radical expression of God. To start, we must realize that this is the God we serve, One who delights in the welfare of His children and will not give them over to reproach. I am also reminded of the Israelites while they were in captivity in Egypt and how no matter how bad they were oppressed they kept growing and multiplying. Let's take a quick look,

Exodus 1:12 (ESV),

*But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.*

I wonder if you are receiving this word from the Lord. Though you may be oppressed and confounded by the valley of darkness you are in, remain in Christ

and He will remain in you and will prepare a table for you in the presence of your enemies. In short, true victory is when we remain steadfast in Christ and press harder into Him in the midst of the surrounding hoard and where we see at some point the deliverance of Almighty God and how He Himself exalts us to the position of His choosing. In this way, we receive a testimony before God and man that our God is faithful and there is no need to fear evil, for His rod and staff have brought the comfort and victory.

Lord, these valleys that we are in make us feel at times that we have lost all hope and that failure is imminent. Give us the courage to stand firm yet another day so that we may get closer to the table of Your victory. We are Yours and cannot make it there in our own strength. And yet in our weakest is when we are strong in You and in the power of Your might. We want to, in this darkest of the valley's simply feel Your Presence so that we can know You are with us and have no reason to fear evil. Thank You, Father, that You are in control and that Your hand will lead our way, in Jesus name. Amen.

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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