

God's Prescription for Joy: Depend on the Shepherd in Dark Times

Psalm 23:4

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

Dark valleys are a part of life. Each one of us will go through difficult times. As a Christian, we do not go through these times alone. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, guides us through the darkness. We can be fearless because of the faithfulness of God. He will always be with us.

I can discover joy in the dark times:

1. When I recognize that all of us go through valleys.
 - A. Dark times will happen and often come unexpectedly.
John 16:33, Jeremiah 4:20
 - B. Dark times happen to good and bad people.
Matt. 5:45
 - C. Dark times don't last forever.
2 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Peter 1:6
2. When I understand that God has a reason for taking us through the dark times.
1 Peter 1:6-7, 1 Corinthians 3:13, James 1:2-3
3. When I understand that God is with me every step.
 - A. God is with us.
Matthew 1:23, Romans 8:31, Jeremiah 1:8, 15:20, 20:11, Deuteronomy 31:6,
Psalm 27:1, 3, 56:3-4, 118:6, Hebrews 13:6
 - B. The darkness is no match for Jesus.
Job 12:22, Psalm 139:12, Hebrews 4:13
 - C. He is constantly protecting me.
Psalm 23:4, Isaiah 43:2, John 16:33