



# Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 95.0

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## Jesus Is With Us Always

**“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” (Psalm 23:4 NASB).**

There are valleys of shadow and canyons of darkness cutting across our walk through this sinful world. Tragedies, illnesses, panic, and fear can come suddenly upon us like low places of uncertain depths or dangers through which we must go. God did not create life to be this way. In Eden, there were no valleys of darkness, pain, or death. Everything was a “level” way: *“The way of the righteous is smooth; O Upright One, make the path of the righteous level”* (Isaiah 26:7).

On level ground, we know what to expect with every step. But Adam and Eve’s sin created the spiritual lows of our present world. Where there are pits, cliffs, and canyons, we do not always know what dangers and difficulties are before us as we walk, but we have seen some of our friends and family descend into such valleys. And we know we have valleys of our own we must walk through. This can make us anxious about what lies ahead.

Anxiety is “a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome” (Google Dictionary). So, how can we be expected to *“be anxious for nothing”* (Philippians 4:6a)? Because the final outcome is certain for the Believer: *“We shall **always** be with the Lord”* (1 Thessalonians 4:17b). We will be in the presence of Jesus forever in eternity. However, it isn’t just the outcome that is certain but the walk as well, for Jesus said, *“I am with you **always**, even to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20b). While God doesn’t promise to keep us from the valleys of life, He

does promise to go with us Himself into every place that we must go.

We have the help of His presence every moment of our walk in this life: *“Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand”* (Isaiah 41:10). This is His promise to us, and our prayer to Him should be, *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts”* (Psalm 139:23), for *“when my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul”* (Psalm 94:19).

There are times when God can feel distant and we are disturbed: *“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence”* (Psalm 42:5). *“Say to those with anxious heart, ‘Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you’”* (Isaiah 35:4). *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God”* (Philippians 4:6).

Yes, may our prayer be, *“Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground”* (Psalm 143:10). It is His Spirit with us that makes our road through the crooked and perverse valleys of this fallen life a level way of righteousness. He is with us: *“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you”* (John 14:18), and He has come to each of us by the Holy Spirit, *“that He may be with you **forever**”* (John 14:16b). Our walk is certain, for Jesus is with us always. And the outcome of our walk is certain, for we will be with Jesus always. *“As for me, I trust in You, O Lord, I say, ‘You are my God’”* (Psalm 31:14b). Even so, Amen.