



- Fear is a terrible emotion. It can literally paralyze you. 1 John 4:18 declares, "*Fear hath \_\_\_\_\_.*"
- A person who knows the good shepherd, Jesus Christ, does not have to be overcome with fear when going through any of the valleys of life.
- In the Bible, the phrase "*shadow of death*" speaks of \_\_\_\_\_ and oppression.
- But the psalmist declares, "*I will fear no evil.*" Why? "*For thou art with me.*"
- The valleys of life need not be dead-end streets.
- If you belong to the good shepherd, you can walk victoriously through the deepest, darkest valleys of life. Why? Because God is with you in two very real ways, which we see depicted in Psalm 23:4.

**First, you possess the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word.**

- The rod symbolized the spoken \_\_\_\_\_ and revealed the will of God. It carried the impact of "*Thus saith the Lord.*"
- Today, the Scriptures are God's rod. They are the extension of God's \_\_\_\_\_ and will to man. God's words are powerful, potent, and convicting.

- *“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”*

**Jeremiah 23:29**

- What did Christ use to counter Satan’s attacks? The rod of God’s Word. Matthew 4:1-11
- When going through dark valleys in this life, I will fear no evil. Why? God is with me through His written Word.

**Second, you possess the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s Spirit.**

- The staff is an instrument used uniquely for the care and management of sheep.
- No other single word can better describe its function on behalf of the flock than that it is for their \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who in the Bible is identified as the Comforter? The \_\_\_\_\_. John 14:26
- The staff of God’s Spirit takes the rod of God’s Word and makes it \_\_\_\_\_ to our hearts and minds.
- As I walk through the dark valleys, He calms me down and brings \_\_\_\_\_. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

**As the Lord’s sheep, we are not exempt from the valleys of life.**

**As our shepherd, Christ has made provision for our every \_\_\_\_\_ when walking through the valleys of life.**