



Walking by Faith Even in Dreadful Darkness

Psalm 23:4



Walking by Faith Even in Dreadful Darkness

We are Characters in God's Story

*Even though I
walk through the
valley of the
shadow of death
[my deepest
darkness], I will
fear no evil, for
you are with me;
your rod and
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comfort me.*

Psalm 23:4



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29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:29-31

A large flock of sheep is shown in a green field, with many sheep in the background and a few in the foreground. The sheep are of various shades of brown and white. The background is a soft, overcast sky.

*My sheep hear my voice,
and I know them,
and they follow me.*

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths
of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 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.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies; you anoint my
head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in
the house of the LORD forever.

*I give them eternal life,
and they will never perish,
and no one will snatch them
out of my hand.*



Walking by Faith Even in Dreadful Darkness

We are Characters in God's Story

*3b ... He leads me
in paths of
righteousness for
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*4 Even though I
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Psalm 23:3b-4



Walking / Living by Faith
Means Never Knowing
Where You are being Led

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8



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We are Characters in God's Story

Expectations

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33



Walking by Faith
Even in Dreadful Darkness
We are Characters in God's Story

*“one of the
biggest traps we
fall into is the
belief that if we
have faith, God
will surely lead us
to success in the
world.”*

Oswald Chambers



Walking by Faith Even in Dreadful Darkness

We are Characters in God's Story

Perspective Expectations

- *Simplified or Complexed*
- *Faith or Fatalism*
- *Presence or Abandonment*
- *Picture: Precise or Expanded*



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Even in Dreadful Darkness
Simplified or Complexed

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**Walking by Faith
Even in Dreadful Darkness**
Simplified or Complexed

*Explanations are
Eternal not Temporal*

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18



Walking by Faith
Even in Dreadful Darkness
Simplified or Complexed

Balancing Truth

- *Psalm 39*
- *Psalm 88*

*When faith means
remaining (walking
through the valley of
my deepest darkness)
in my struggle
rather than seeking
to rise above it.*



Walking by Faith
Even in Dreadful Darkness

Fear → *Faith not Fright / Fatalism*

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Walking by Faith
Even in Dreadful Darkness
Fear → *Faith not Fright / Fatalism*

I will fear no evil

- *Emotion*
- *Truth*



Walking by Faith
Even in Dreadful Darkness
Fear → *Faith not Fright / Fatalism*

- *Romans 8:28-39*
- *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*



Walking by Faith Even in Dreadful Darkness

His Presence in the Darkness

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Psalm 23:3b-4



Walking by Faith Even in Dreadful Darkness

His Presence in the Darkness

*¹¹If I say, "Surely
the darkness shall
cover me, and the
light about me be
night,"*

*¹²even the
darkness is not
dark to you; the
night is bright as
the day, for
darkness is as light
with you.*

Psalm 139:11-12



Walking by Faith Even in Dreadful Darkness

His Presence in the Darkness

⁹ ... “You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off”;
¹⁰ fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:9-10



Walking by Faith
Even in Dreadful Darkness

His Presence in the Darkness

*For it is you who
light my lamp;
the LORD my God
lightens my
darkness.*

Psalm 18:28



Walking by Faith Even in Dreadful Darkness

Pictures of Comfort

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Psalm 23:3b-4



Walking by Faith
Even in Dreadful Darkness
Pictures of Comfort

*your rod and
your staff, they
comfort me.*

- *Identification*
- *Purpose*



Walking by Faith Even in Dreadful Darkness

Pictures of Comfort

¹ *I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.*

¹⁴ *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.*

Psalm 89:1,14



**Walking by Faith
Even in Dreadful Darkness**
Pictures of Comfort

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5



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