

## **The Collar and Leash Mean Community and Guidance.**

The most exciting time of my dog's day is when I snapped the leash on her collar because she knows we are about to go out and walk together.

### **Psalm 23:4**

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.

I want us to focus first on vs4 c

### **For you are with me.**

“ you will call him; Immanuel, God with us.”

“Low I am with you even to the end of days.”

### **Isaiah 40:11 NKJV**

He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry [them] in His bosom, [And] gently lead those who are with young.

Notice even where:

**4a** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

He does not say death, but the valley of the SHADOW of death.

### **The sun sets first in the valley.**

On the calendar, sunsets are not affected by mountains

Denver's sunset is 14 minutes earlier than Golden, due to the mountains it gets darker 30 minutes earlier.

He is not talking about experiencing doubt, He's talking about the emotion of fear that comes when we perceive darkness.

### **John 15:4-5**

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Being in community with Jesus brings about abundant fruit in us.

### **What fruit?**

Love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, meekness

### **Notice: His protection and guidance**

**4d** Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

### **The Rod Protects**

David to Saul: I took my rod and killed the lion

### **The Staff Directs and Saves the Stranded.**

### **Psalm 124:1-8**

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side - let Israel now say -

2 if it had not been the Lord who was on our side when people rose up against us,

3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

5 then over us would have gone the raging waters.

6 Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;

the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

### **Notice David's Mind Set**

Vs 4b I will fear no evil;

**Psalm 56:1-4**

Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; 2 my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly.

3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

**What Does God's People Walking with God Look Like?****Micah 7:14 NKJV -**

Shepherd Your people with Your staff, The flock of Your heritage, Who dwell solitarily [in] a woodland, In the midst of Carmel; Let them feed [in] Bashan and Gilead, As in days of old.

**When A Believer Is Afraid the Issue Is Not the Valley; It Is Their Trust in God****Isaiah 26:3**

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.