

**May 12, 2021**

## **Walking Through the Valley**

Last week we defined and considered the three types of death, physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death. Knowing that death is not an ending, but only a separation, we now want to consider the valley of death through which all men must pass. Read again **Psalm 23:1-6**, paying particular attention to verse 4. The valley of death may be defined as the time leading up to the moment of separation of the soul and spirit from the body. Notice three words in the opening phrase of verse 4.

The first word is the word walk. Walking speaks of continuous forward motion. Sometimes we think of death as a stopping or ending point, but to come to a stop would indicate one is no longer walking. Not only does walking speak of a continuous forward motion, but it also implies a steady consistent pace. For the believer who has a proper understanding of death and the promise of the presence of God, there is no hesitancy or agitation in their step. They approach death with a steadiness and confidence that only comes from a personal walk with God. In effect, walking through the valley is nothing more than a continuation of the believer's daily walk with God. Consider Enoch who walked with God and was not, or Moses who went up into the mountain to view the promised land, knowing he was not coming back down. Can you think of others in the Bible who walked with God and what was their attitude as they came to the end of their physical life? Consider the walk of Jesus as He approached the cross of Calvary. Was there any hesitation in His step? A person who does not walk with God in life often lacks the experience and thus the assurance that is needed to walk through the valley of death.

The second word is the word through. Through speaks of a passing from one point to another as in entering a valley or trial with confidence of coming out on the other side. Failure to pass through would imply getting stuck somewhere in the middle. While walking indicates a continuous motion, through indicates that we will arrive at our destination as opposed to simply walking in circles or getting lost somewhere within the valley.

The third word is the word valley. A valley speaks of the low land between two higher points of terrain. It literally means a gorge with lofty sides, but not a gully. As we enter the valley of death, we descend into a low point in the physical life, but as we exit the valley of death, we ascend to a greater eternal life. If it were a gully, the sides might be too steep to traverse, but because it is a valley, we can have confidence that the Lord will bring us out to the mountain top on the other side.

There are many valley experiences in life. Read **Psalm 84:6**. Baca means tears. We do not dwell in the valley. We pass through the valley. What are some valley experiences other than the valley of death that a person may have to pass through? Have you ever had to go through a valley experience? What encouraged or helped you the most? Do you know someone who is going through a valley experience? What can you do to encourage and help them? What scriptures or promises of God might you be able to share?