

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

Psalm 23:4 reminds us of 3 truths: evil exists, fear is real and faith is essential.

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me? Psalm 56:3–4

All day long they distort my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil. Psalm 56:5

Fear is real.
Faith is essential.
Evil exists.

Things are not typically evil but the things people do are.

Evil is any action, thought, or attitude that is contrary to the word or the will of God.

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Timothy 6:10

Being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart. Ephesians 4:18

And they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. Ephesians 4:19

But you did not learn Christ in this way. Ephesians 4:20

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:13–14

We live in a world where sheep are often exploited by evil sheep and evil shepherds.

Fear often causes the sheep to forgo their faith in the Great Shepherd

Because evil exists and fear is real our need to have faith in the shepherd is critical.

The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil. Proverbs 19:23

We can be confident that there is no shadow of death that exists without sunlight.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

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Have you ever come in contact with a mean shepherd or sheep?
And how did that experience affect your walk with God?

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Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. Matthew 7:15

Wherever sheep are wolves will follow

Wolves can easily adapt to different spiritual climates
Wolves prey on spiritually weak sheep
Wolves have sharp teeth and a big appetite
Wolves live in packs and produce other wolves as a part of their pack

Wherever sheep are the shepherd will be there to guide and protect

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