

## The Valley of the Shadow of Death

By: Hazel Gay Lee © 2013

Oh God, what mercy that thou has bestowed upon those who trust in thee. In great sorrow we come and ask that your mercy be bestowed upon your people. We come as your people and bow before thee. Thou hear our plea. Thou bestow mercy upon us. For to him that mercy is given to him much is required. It is the merciful that thou bestow mercy upon. Give unto thy people a merciful heart.

I behold thy great mercy. I behold great forgiveness. For it is to the forgiving that forgiveness is bestowed upon. For he who has been shown mercy and forgiveness much is required of him. We come as your people and ask that thou give us a forgiving heart, not just toward others, but toward ourselves too.

As I daily walk through this Valley of the Shadow of Death I call life, I know that thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Thou anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over. For in this valley death lurks around me. I am overshadowed with it. There is no escape from death. It will take me. As I walk through this valley I will fear no evil. Thou art with me. Thou will feed my soul fit meat for the day. I will find perfect peace beside the still waters. The currents will swell and the waters will rumble, but when they are still I find perfect peace in thee. I know that my footsteps are ordered of thee. My enemies compass me about but I am in perfect peace. Only in thee can I find such a haven of rest. I shall dwell in thy house forever, precious Lord, forever. I dine with thee until my cup is overflowing with tender mercies and sweet forgiveness. I lean upon thy rod and staff for my strength. I sup with thee in thy presence within thy house. My heart is the heart of a shepherd boy as I come before thee.

My little shepherd boy! Thy faith in God strengthens me. For by faith thou removed a giant mountain before thee. By faith I have removed mountains from my life too. My soul connects with that little shepherd boy within me. Sweet little David, back on the backside of the desert and alone with your sheep, before you became a king, before you were mighty. My giants have come my way too and they have laughed at me but within I was at perfect peace. God fought your battles. God will fight my battles if I believe. Our enemies will bring their own weapons of destruction to destroy us, but they will destroy themselves. They will boast of their greatness but God will abase them. They will defile God's anointing but God will withdraw from them. Then we shall sit by the still waters and find perfect peace with our maker. Of all the sins that King David committed, one sin he never did. He never forgot where he came from, who was in control, and who is maker was. He never lost his love and faith in his creator. He never forgot to fall upon the rock in repentance and let God be his judge. He never forgot that little shepherd boy inside of him that was much bigger than the giant and king before him and even the king within him. He never forgot his place and God's place in his being. He never forgot how to repent with a sincere and broken heart and spirit. God grant us the ability to remember who we are, who thou art, and how to repent with a sincere and broken spirit and heart to our fellowman and unto thee so we can be forgiven.