

# Shadows

In our time on earth at some point in time we understand that we aren't going to live forever. As children a lifetime of seventy to eighty years may seem close to forever, but death casts its shadow on all; as we approach those average lifespans, we become more aware of the brevity of our allotment of days.

The disciples who were not yet where they needed to be spiritually feared death.

**One day he and his disciples got into a boat, and he told them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." So they set out, and as they were sailing he fell asleep. Then a fierce windstorm came down on the lake; they were being swamped and were in danger. They came and woke him up, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to die!"**

*(Luke 8:22-24 CSB)*

Here we see the disciples with Jesus, doing as He told them to do, but having no confidence that they were safe; yet Jesus was in the same boat, the same storm, sleeping. When they woke Him He asked them where their faith was.

In contrast we see the faith of David reflected in this psalm:

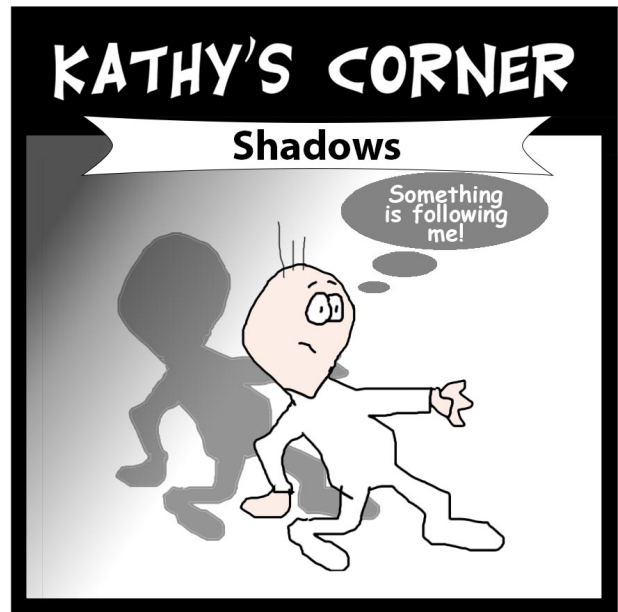
**Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.** *(Psalm 23:4 NKJV)*

Life's storms can make us anxious, though we are taught not to be anxious or fear. What seems to be a mountain to us can eclipse the light causing us to walk in that valley in that shadow or darkness.

**What is a shadow? Really it isn't anything in itself. It is an absence of something.** That something is the light of the world. Jesus said of Himself, "I am the light of the world." To walk through the valley of the shadow of death with no fear of evil is done by having a firm confidence and trust in the Lord Jesus, knowing as David did that He is with us.

Whatever storms are to come, and they may be more huge and fierce than any we have seen before, we will only get through without fear if our confidence is in Jesus. As Satan ramps up his evil in this world in these last days the darkness seems deeper and the shadows seem longer, just as shadows appear longer near the end of the day; but still a shadow is nothing but the absence of light. I remember some words from a song: "There is not enough darkness to put out the light." Satan tried. He failed. Think, warriors! When the light is over our heads the shadow is under our feet.

No matter how many times the Bible says "Do not fear," will we? We learn that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. The word *faith* and *trust* are very similar in meaning, enough so that the Complete Jewish Bible translates it this way, **"So trust comes from what is heard...."**



though this translation presents the *word* as more of a testimony about Messiah than a word from Him. Still, there is no shortcut around it. Hearing is necessary. Hearing is letting the word of God work on you, in you and through you. We must allow it to do its work dividing spirit from soul, growing us, transforming us. (See Hebrews 4:12) Yes, it hurts, but like trusting a doctor who operates to make you whole and well, we must trust the word in order to receive the desired outcome for which many ask praying, “Lord increase my faith!” *Lord increase our trust!*

**Portions from Psalm 31 of David** (CSB)

*(Verses for the faithful to enjoy.)*

- 7 I will rejoice and be glad in your faithful love  
because you have seen my affliction.  
You know the troubles of my soul
- 8 and have not handed me over to the enemy.  
You have set my feet in a spacious place.
- 14 But I trust in you, Lord;  
I say, “You are my God.”
- 15 The course of my life is in your power;  
rescue me from the power of my enemies  
and from my persecutors.
- 16 Make your face shine on your servant;  
save me by your faithful love.
- 19 How great is your goodness,  
which you have stored up for those who fear you.  
In the presence of everyone you have acted  
for those who take refuge in you.
- 20 You hide them in the protection of your presence;  
you conceal them in a shelter  
from human schemes,  
from quarrelsome tongues.
- 21 Blessed be the Lord,  
for he has wondrously shown his faithful love to me  
in a city under siege.
- 23 Love the Lord, all his faithful ones.  
The Lord protects the loyal,  
but fully repays the arrogant.
- 24 Be strong, and let your heart be courageous,  
all you who put your hope in the Lord.

Allow these words to help you rest in Him. Wrap yourself in His faithful love because He can be trusted. Only believe!

We say we believe in Him. Do we really? How must Jesus have felt when even the disciples deserted Him in spite of their professions! We know how encouraging it is when someone says they believe in us, though they may not have much reason to, but He finishes what He starts. He keeps His promises. ***Our trust in Him is a joy to Him.***

Jesus said, **“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”**  
Are we living in reality or in a shadow?