

This is the story of Christmas. God sent His one and only son, Jesus as the Christ, Messiah, and savior to our broken world. God became flesh and dwelt with us.

**Matthew 1:23 NLT** “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘**God is with us.**’”

But Jesus didn’t just come to us, God with us, and then leave us. He came to us, God with us, and stayed with us through His Holy Spirit.

We get to experience this truth of God with us every day, in every circumstance. Some days we are very aware of His presence and other days we just take it for granted and forget that he is even here.

Let’s face it... when it comes to our relationship with Jesus, it’s easy believe God is with us on the mountain tops!

**EX:** We get a good job, get a raise—Our team wins—Kid sleeps thru night—Parking spot.

But it’s more difficult to feel like God is with us in the VALLEYS: When we feel alone, scared, hurting, or receive bad news.

The good think about having experienced valley in life it that it helps us grow, builds our faith, and we experience God in a different way in the valley that we do on the mountain top.

**We May Enjoy God on the Mountaintops,  
But We Get to Know Him Intimately in the Valleys.**

**Psalm 84:5-7**

**5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.**

**6 As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.**

**7 They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.**

**The Valley of Baka** was also known as the Valley of Tears, Valley of Weeping, Valley of Loss Mountain— The Valley of Baka was desert country. It was a waterless place with thorns, wild animals, vipers, and danger. A Valley nearly impossible to travel without facing trouble and hardship.

**In the Valley, Seek God’s Strength**

**Psalm 84:5-7 Blessed are those whose strength is in you...**

We are blessed when we have our strength in Jesus.

- The great thing about the valley is that it makes us keenly aware that our own personal strength is not enough and we must lean into the strength of the Lord.

If you are hear today and you don’t know Christ Jesus personally—  
What you have is all you have.

But if you are in Christ and you are exhausted, just can’t take any more, or don’t think you can make it, you can cast your cares upon Jesus and find you strength in the Lord.

Notice this verse doesn’t say, “Blessed are those who *make it on their own.*”

No, blessed are those whose strength is in the Lord.

David was hiding in the wilderness. Jonathan, Saul’s son, rose and went to David to help him find strength in God.

**1 Samuel 23:15-18 While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life.**

**16 And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and **helped him find strength in God.****

Our weakness reveals the strength of God.

**2 Corinthians 12:9** But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

### In the Valley, Set Your Mind on Jesus

**What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Psalm 84:5 NLT**

Some versions say they set their minds on the journey to Zion. In other words, you have to set your mind on the journey to heaven, you have to set your minds toward God and the things of God.

What you think about matters!

**Colossians 3:2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

When you are going through a valley, I don’t want you to say I am worried, anxious, depressed, scared, restless and can’t sleep at night. No, I want you to be able to say...

#### **My current circumstances may be in the valley – But My Mind is Set on God!**

- My heart may be anxious— But my mind is set.
- My soul may be aching— But my mind is set.
- My emotions may be racing— But my mind is set.

This Christmas season, as you go through all the busyness, time pressures, decorating, gifts, dinners, events, and wondering how you are going to pay for it all... Take a moment and set your mind on Jesus... God with us.

Why should your mind be set on where you are going rather than where you are currently?

Because the operative word here is “through”.

You aren’t staying in the Valley; you are going through the valley.

**Psalm 84:6** As they pass through the Valley of Baka...

You may be in the Valley now, but that’s not your destination. You are just passing through.

**Psalms 23:4** Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Maybe you feel like you are trapped in a Valley and you want to scream, “I just want out!”

You need to realize that the way out of the Valley is through the valley.

In Psalms 84, David wrote of a people going to Jerusalem (Zion)—The House of God— The City of Refuge—The Place of Peace.

But to get to the City of Refuge—They had to travel through the Valley of Tears.

For many, *“The valley is the pathway to the place of peace.”*

## In the Valley, Dig a Well

**Psalm 84:6 As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.** (KJV—make it a well).

When you are in the dry place—**Dig a well**, dig a small hole—a container to catch the rain.

Buried in this passage of pain is a promise: *If you dig it—God will fill it.*

Even in the Valley, God is With Us and Jesus is saying:

- If you draw near to me—I will draw near to you.
- If you seek me—You will find me.
- If you make room for me—I will reveal myself to you.
- If you dig a hole, I will fill it.

God rarely reveals himself when you are rushed. You've got to slow down and dig a well. Slow down and allow His presence to refresh you.

**Psalms 46:10-11 He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”**  
**11 The LORD Almighty is with us** (Is where? With Us, God With Us);  
**the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Sometimes we don't realize He is with us until we still ourselves and know him even in the valley, know that He is God.

Digging a well is preparing for the presence of God!

God never says you won't go through the Valleys, but you never have to go through the valleys alone.

**Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**

But the Valley of 2020 has been so Dark - A year of Storms - So much Trouble - I feel so Weak...

- Jesus, God With Us, is your Light in Darkness
- Jesus is your Peace in the Storm
- Jesus is your Joy in the Trouble
- Jesus is your Strength when You're Weak

*Enjoy him on the mountain—Get to know him in the Valley*

**Next Step to Make A Difference: Rather than live in despair in the Valley,- I commit to Seek God's Strength, Set My Mind on Jesus, and Dig a Well.**