

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NRSV)

²³ “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.’”

Matthew 1:23 (NLT2)

In The Valley

- We may _____ God on the mountaintops, but we get to _____ Him intimately in the valleys.

⁵ What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. ⁶ When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs. The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings. ⁷ They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.

Psalm 84:5-7 (NLT2)

⁵ What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD....

Psalm 84:5 (NLT2)

- If you _____ know God intimately all you have is all _____ have.
- When you know God intimately you have _____ strength.

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

Psalm 84:5 (NLT2)

- For many the valley is the _____ to peace.

⁶ When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs. The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings.

Psalm 84:6 (NLT2)

- We may be in the valley but the valley isn't our _____.
- God never says you _____ go through valleys, but you never have to go through them _____.

⁷ 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.

Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV2011)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!” ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ “Don't be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” ³⁴ Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” ³⁵ The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's now in her sixth month... ³⁸ Mary responded, “I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-36, 38 (NLT2)

My Next Step Is To...

- Meditate on and/or memorize Psalm 84:5
- Set aside a time daily to spend with God, waiting on His presence.
- Set my mind on the destination that God is leading me to rather than the valley I'm currently in.
- Ask Jesus into my life so that I can learn what it is to have God with me in every season of life.