

It is easy to say, "Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!" when times are good. It is easy to believe that God loves you when you are on the mountain top enjoying the sunshine. But what happens when you are down in the dark valley, surrounded by your enemies? Perhaps you are currently in the valley of marital, financial or bodily trouble, and you are asking, "Where is God?" He is right there with you. The God of the valleys says to you, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

When King Jehoshaphat was surrounded and outnumbered by his enemies, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel and he said to the king, "Don't be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, *who is with you*. Don't fear or be dismayed. Tomorrow, go out against them for *the Lord is with you*." (2 Chronicles 20:14-17) What King Jehoshaphat did next was brilliant. He acted with wisdom from on high. Instead of putting his commandos in front, he put worshippers in front! What did the worshippers sing? They sang of God's love for them - "Praise the Lord for His *love* endures forever!", and God utterly destroyed their enemies! (2 Chronicles 20:21-23)

It is not the trials that make us strong, but our responses in those tests. Satan wants us to respond by asking, "Where is God?", but God wants us to respond with faith in His love for us. We are more than conquerors not because of our love for Him, but through Him who loves us. (Romans 8:37) So whatever valley you are in, don't be afraid or stressed, because God is there with you, strengthening and upholding you. Just worship, praise and thank Him, and let Him fight your battles for you!

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."