

Ghosts of Christmas
“Dealing with Uncertainty”
- selected Psalms -
December 31, 2017 / Pastor Shawn

God’s remedy for confidently dealing with the “Ghost of the Unknown” is to live with Jesus.

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)

Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid,
 for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way.
Psalm 23:4 (TLB)
(see also: Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Isaiah 41:10)

5 IMAGES OF PROMISE



Jesus BE NEAR ME
 I spread out my hands to you, my soul thirsts for you
 like a parched land. Psalm 143:6
¹ As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul
 pants for you, my God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the
 living God. When can I go and meet with God?
Psalm 42:1-2
(see also: Jeremiah 29:12-13; James 4:8)



Jesus LEAD ME
⁴ Show me your ways, O Lord! Teach me your paths. ⁵
 Guide me in your truth and teach me for you are God,
 my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.
Psalm 25:4-5
²³ The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who
 delights in him; ²⁴ though he may stumble, he will not
 fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.
Psalm 37:23-24

You broaden the path beneath me so that my ankles do not turn.
Psalm 18:36



Jesus BE MY JOY
¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my
 sackcloth and clothed me with joy, ¹² that my heart may
 sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will
 praise you forever. Psalm 30:11-12



Jesus BE MY STRENGTH
²⁹ With your help, I can advance against a troop. With
 my God, I can scale a wall. ³² It is God who arms me
 with strength and makes my way perfect. ³³ He makes
 my feet like the feet of a deer. He enables me to stand
 on the heights. ³⁵ You make your saving help my
 shield, and your right hand sustains me; your help has
 made me great. Psalm 18:29, 32-33, 35



Jesus BE MY REFUGE
⁹ Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes
 grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.
¹⁰ My life is consumed by anguish, and my years by
 groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction.
Psalm 31:9-10

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find
 refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
¹⁴ “Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him. I will protect
 him for he acknowledges my name. ¹⁵ He will call upon me, and I will
 answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor
 him.” Psalm 91:4, 14-15
(see also: Isaiah 42:3; Psalm 56:8; 62:8)

Discussion Questions

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message? Why did this impact you?
2. With which image(s) did you most identify? Why did this image resonate with you?
3. What uncertainty or unknown is causing stress or anxiety in your life right now? What is one “resolution” you would like to make and keep for 2018?
4. How would embracing the truth that God is both “For Us” and “With Us” help you deal with your uncertainty or keeping your resolution?
5. Of the verses given in your notes, which one(s) “spoke” to you? Why? Commit to memorizing the verse(s) this week.