[**Faith and Walking through Shadows**](https://public-api.wordpress.com/bar/?stat=groovemails-events&bin=wpcom_email_click&redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2Ffaithencounters.impart.org%2F2025%2F04%2F17%2Ffaith-and-walking-through-shadows%2F&sr=0&signature=f14c72886d156f870439f89c7d90d8c7&blog_id=127938330&user=d4772d34747c29138d6356de987fff13&_e=&_z=z)

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | By **Martha Rodman** on April 17, 2025 |   *Even 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 NLT.*  In 1981, while my husband was on a ministry trip to Texas, the Holy Spirit asked him a question. "Darryl, do you have a desire for a son?" As he searched his heart, he told the Lord, "you know, I do". He called me from Texas and shared that conversation with me. We had already discussed having more children, and he told me he was content with our two beautiful daughters. Rosanna was going to be seven, Elizabeth five. I had already prayed to be content with these two. We were done with diapers, cribs and sleepless nights, but I did some more praying (of course I said, yes!)  This pregnancy was hard. I had extreme morning sickness (all day long!). Then I started spotting blood. My doctor advised bed rest, so that's what I did. It wasn't easy with two active girls. This bed rest gave me lots of time to think and pray. I wrestled with God's question: if this was the promised son, then why was it so hard? Suppose I miscarried? How do I reconcile the two? I processed my trust in God's Word. I navigated the pregnancy hormones and emotions. I tried to understand what my body was apparently doing. I struggled. One day, I read this verse. "*Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil".* Such peace came over me. If, for some reason, I lost this pregnancy, there would be no evil in it. If I carried the baby to full term, there would also be no evil in it, even if it was a girl. For God is the author of life. The very next day, the bleeding stopped!  That scripture goes on to say, *I will for no evil, for thou are with me.* He is with us through every shadow of doubt and fear. If you are struggling with belief in His goodness through your situation, take heart. His rod and His staff are protecting you if you let Him. The rod is symbolic of God's protection and discipline. The staff is used for guidance and support. Turn to Him and let Him guide you to safe places in your thoughts and emotions.  Andrew Lloyd Rodman was born September 9, 1982, very healthy and has been such a blessing to our family. The peace that came when I submitted to trusting God's Word in this matter is hard to describe. This week, the doctors placed my sister Carol in hospice care. It was not unexpected, but still difficult to hear. Hospice care happens when the doctors feel a person has less than six months to live. Carol has been fighting Parkinson's for several years.  Carol has been the glue that has kept our unusual family together. She was eleven when we were born. Our sister Laura was 4. Because of our mother's mental condition, Carol and Laura were placed in foster care, and we were placed for adoption. Eventually, Carol and Laura were adopted into separate families as well. Through God's amazing answer to prayer, we were reunited at 15. Carol was the big sister we didn't know we needed! Carol is number four of eight children. We were numbers 6, 7 and 8! This valley is not easy for any of us.  The good news is Carol loves the Lord, and we know she will be with Him. My heart goes out to her two dear daughters who have taken such good care of her. It is difficult to navigate the hard decisions that come with end-of-life care. I know from personal experience, there will be a big hole in their hearts and lives when she goes. There is no evil in her passing. Parkinson's diagnosis is not an easy one, and like all sicknesses and diseases, the result of the Fall.  Our hope lies in the resurrection, doesn't it? This life has its difficult moments, for sure. The passing of loved ones is one of the hardest parts. But we take comfort in the words of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14: *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again. Through Jesus, God will also bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*  My friends, love well those you care about. Allow the Holy Spirit to help you navigate the difficult conversations. Accept the reality that none of us leave this world alive. Our real life will start when we see Him...aren't you glad we have a Savior?  *Father, I ask you to help us understand in a deeper manner how to navigate every valley that looks like death, and every valley that does lead to a death. Whether it is the death of dreams, or the death of a loved one. We choose to trust you, In Jesus' Name. Amen.* |