

COMFORTING SHEPHERD

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

by Tommy & Mari Anne Andersen

TRACK 4

COVERING GRACE

My Shepherd, it's very dark in this place – a place I never been before – this is not familiar territory to me. I desire to ascend to the heights of Your Mountain top – My Shepherd – this terrain is not known to me – the paths that wind through the dark valley seems alarming and intimidating. The terrain is rough and this valley is steep with discouragement and disappointment – My Shepherd – my heart has lost its confidence – where are You – I feel neglected and left behind – lead me to Your higher ground.

My Shepherd – You promised You will always be with me – where are You – My Shepherd – I can't see you nor can I hear you – I feel lost – alone – afraid – My Shepherd – I know You are calling me to cross-over this adversity – but my sorrow is deep with losses – my mind can't understand or perceive what is happening.

My Shepherd – this shadow that hangs over me is distressing and I find no pleasure in this place – I feel I'm going in the wrong direction – and everything is so hard. This valley is dry, so barren and so parched I feel burdened with misunderstandings, I have so many questions. It's so hard – My Shepherd – I have no strength to fight – or to figure things out. I am humbled all around with my circumstances in this wilderness of a valley.

My Shepherd – there has been many set backs – so many broken promises and unfulfilled dreams – disappointments have crushed my soul and given me a heavy spirit – the struggle is inside of me, I thought I would have been further along by now, and that my healing more complete – I'm too far into this place to turn back, I don't know the way out of this place.

My Shepherd – why have you dealt with me in this way – the promises You have spoken in my life and over my life are not evident – they are not in sight.

My Shepherd – I have had to weather storms before – but this storm is alarming and threatens my life that causing dread and fear. I fear that I am susceptible to these sudden changes of the wind that sweeps down over the hills with the cold north winds – the storm approaches with greater force – it's relentless with the cold darkness that seeps into my very existence. My Shepherd – guide and sustain me in these darkest hours – renew me with Your strength and comfort me with the touch of Your hand.

My Shepherd – I know many are called but few are chosen – Lord I embrace this place and know You are designing this time to expose every fleshy confidences and every hidden wrong way within me.

My Shepherd – in this valley wilderness my fears and bitterness are being exposed along with my wrong expectancies and motives

- That I will always be alone.
- When I need help there will be no one around to rescue me.
- I will always have to fight and defend myself.
- I can't trust or rely on anyone.
- There is no rest for me.
- I confess that I cannot trust and this lack of trust has permeated and hindered my life and relationships even with You – My Shepherd.

My Shepherd, forgive me for my sinful self-protections. I renounce my old defense mechanisms, and cut myself free from them in your name – heal the wounded places of my heart.

- Reassure me and comfort away my pain, so I can learn to trust again.
- I embrace life, I choose life. I come out from my old hiding places, and I invite you to demolish these old false refuges of mine. I step into my new abundant life in you. I run to You, You will be my only safe place, and my strong tower.

I know Your thoughts and ways are not my thoughts and ways, and I know Your heavens are higher than the earth, and so are Your thoughts higher than mine, so Lord lead me, Shepherd of mine lead me that I may lean into your embrace, that I can rest my head, hold me tight, carry me through this valley, and turn my desserts into fruitful gardens

I will trust You with all of my heart and will not lean on my own understanding. I acknowledge You- in all my ways and I know You will make my path straight, you will never leave me or forsake me, but be with me always – no matter what, no matter where, no matter why, I will be safe in you hand. Your grace covers me and will always be enough for me.

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