



When God created your *inmost being* at conception, He created the part of you that will live for eternity...your soul. As your life comes to an end in this world, you can be sure that God will be there. Psalm 23:1-4 gives us a picture of that part of life. The New Living Translation puts it this way:

*“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name. **Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.**”*

For the person who has placed his faith and trust in Jesus for salvation, walking with God just continues into eternity. But not everyone has done that and Jesus spoke about it in Matthew 7:21-23 **“Not everyone** who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven but **only he** who does **the will of my Father** who is in heaven.”

What is the will of the Father? 2 Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not **willing** anyone to perish, but **everyone** to come to repentance.”*
*Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord’ did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, **‘Depart from me, I never knew you.’**”*

The very first verse of Psalm 139 says *“O Lord you have searched me and **you know me.**”* Why would God be with you from the beginning and form a place for Himself to reside in you, walk with you through your whole life and through the valley of the shadow of death and then say ‘depart from me, I never knew you’?

The very end of Psalm 139 gives us a clue. David turns to God and says, *“Search me O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

There has to come a time – a moment in time – when I turn to God and say,

‘Search me and come to live in my heart.

Know me - I am giving you full access to my life, not holding anything back.

See if there is any offensive way in me – I invite you to see my sin, not hiding it from you any longer. I need your forgiveness.

Lead me in the way everlasting – Jesus said **“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** Proverbs 14:12 says **“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”**

As our pastor puts it so well, “I have lived my life the way I have wanted to right up to this moment. But now, I am turning my life over to you.”

I cannot think of anything more tragic than to know that God has loved you right up to the end of your life and He has to turn to you and say, "*I never knew you*" because you lived *a way that seemed right to you*, but inevitably led to eternal separation from the lover of your soul.

The truth of life is that God walks with you. The decision of life is, "Am I going to walk with Him?" If you have never taken your first step to walk with God, click on the "How to begin your walk with God" link to do that right now.