

IT'S IN THE VALLEYS I GROW

**Sometimes life seems hard to bear,
Full of sorrow, trouble and woe
It's then I have to remember
That it's in the valleys I grow.**

**If I always stayed on the mountain top
And never experienced pain,
I would never appreciate God's love
And would be living in vain.**

**I have so much to learn
And my growth is very slow,
Sometimes I need the mountain tops,
But it's in the valleys I grow.**

**I do not always understand
Why things happen as they do,
But I am very sure of one thing.
My Lord will see me through.**

**My little valleys are nothing
When I picture Christ on the cross
He went through the valley of death;
His victory was Satan's loss.**

**Forgive me Lord, for complaining
When I'm feeling so very low.
Just give me a gentle reminder
That it's in the valleys I grow.**

**Continue to strengthen me, Lord
And use my life each day
To share your love with others
And help them find their way.**

**Thank you for valleys, Lord
For this one thing I know
The mountain tops are glorious
But it's in the valleys I grow!**

**(This poem was written by Jane Eggleston
who currently lives in Virginia.)**

**REMEMBER... The shortest distance
between a problem and solution is the
distance between your knees and the
floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can
stand up to anything.**

Love Your Enemies

From the land in which our Lord walked comes a story of mercy and forgiveness. In November of 1989, Sergeant Zeev Traum was patrolling the beachfront road south of Gaza City. He and another Israeli soldier were ambushed in their jeep by Palestinian gunmen. The forty-year-old's death brought a unique dilemma for his widow. She could simple bury her husband, or donate his heart to an ailing Palestinian. Bittersweet revenge could be found if she denied the request and let one of them die, since they killed

her husband. Instead, she opted to forgive. So outside the city walls where Jesus Christ replaced our heart with His, fifty-four-year-old Hanna Khader, who had waited four months for a heart, received new life from his political enemy. In response, Zeev's widow said, "If it's possible to save a man's life, I think it's a mitzvah" (commandment of Jewish law, or meritorious act). *Houston Chronicle, Nov. 17, 1992, p. 24A
"Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"
Matthew 5:44