

**Chapter 8: Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me**

Consider the verses from Psalm 139: 23-24 which state,

*“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.”*

Keller references these same verses in regards to the Lord using His rod. His rod is His Word that is used to protect us and His staff is His Holy Spirit Who draws us closer to Him and guides us.

This week’s worksheet has simple questions which have multiple answers that we will discuss in class. Prayerfully prepare your heart for the discussion by reviewing before class.

In what ways are you using God’s Word to . . .

- . . . safeguard you from danger?
- . . . give you power?
- . . . be authoritative in your life?
- . . . bring you comfort?
- . . . examine your life?

In what ways are you allowing God’s Spirit to . . .

- . . . care and manage your life?
- . . . draw you closer to your brothers and sisters in Christ?
- . . . draw you closer to the Father for intimate examination?
- . . . guide you through your life and keep you on the proper path?

Keller describes the Word of God and Spirit of God best on page 115 when he states:

It is the Word of God that comes swiftly to our hearts, that comes with surprising suddenness to correct and reprove us when we go astray. It is the Spirit of the living God, using the living Word, that convicts our conscience of right conduct. In this way we are kept under control by Christ Who wants us to walk in the ways of righteousness.