

Journey Through Grief

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Pastor Steve

Journey Through Grief

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. ⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

2 Corinthians 1:3-11 (NIV)

What you _____ that will get you through the storms of life.

“There is no growth without change; there is no change without loss; there is no loss without pain and there is no pain without grief.” ~ Rick Warren

To get through the grief of whatever you go through:

- I) You can have _____ even though life doesn't make sense because you know God is with you and He loves you.
 - A) When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. Isaiah 43:2

- B) ... For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." Hebrews 13:5b
- C) Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;... Isaiah 49:15-16a (NIV)

II) You can have _____ even though everything on earth is broken because you know that God is good, and He's got a plan for your life.

- A) ⁵The land is defiled by crime; the people have twisted the laws of God and broken his everlasting commands...¹⁹ The earth has broken down in utter collapse; everything is lost, abandoned, and confused. Isaiah 24:5, 19 (TLB)
- B) And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28
- C) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. Romans 5:3-5

III) You can have _____ even though life is a battle because you know there is more to the story than just the here and now.

- A) No weapon formed against you shall prosper... Isaiah 54:17a (NKJV)
- B) But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. 1 John 4:4
- C) We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 14
- D) Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. 1 Corinthians 15:43
- E) So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. 2 Corinthians 4:18
- F) He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." Revelation 21:4