



GLORIOUS GRIEF

Week 15 | September 9, 2024

Loss is a *normal* part of life. Whether it is the death of a loved one, the end of a dear relationship, or the failure of a beautiful dream; we have all experienced the **sorrow** that comes when we lose something we care about—and we are sure to *experience it again*. The Bible does not shy away from this fact. Over 250 times the subject of grief is mentioned in scripture and we know that Jesus Himself went through this emotion.

(John 11:35; Psalm 116:15)

The Bible also teaches that there should be **a clear distinction** between the grief of Christians and the rest of the world. Our grief, just as every area of our lives, *should reveal God* to those around us and bring GLORY to His name. Sound impossible? It should. Human beings are **not capable** of handling grief and the feelings of *anger, sadness, and loss* that come with it without divine intervention from above. The Good News is that we serve **a miracle working God** who loves to do *the impossible* when His children humble themselves and pray!

In order to experience this **Glorious Grief** that *honors our Father* we must fight for the faith that God is who He says He is, hold onto the hope that what He has promised to do will happen, and lean into the love that He has abundantly given us. **Prayer is the key** to achieving this through *God's power*. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

1. Fight for **FAITH** (Hebrews 11:1; 1 Timothy 1:19)

- a. **NOTE:** Faith, **believing in** something *hoped for but unseen*, is an essential component of salvation. The beauty of the Christian life is that we are to **live each day** of it *the same way* we were saved: by the power of God's grace through **faith in Him**. In times of grief fighting to maintain our faith in God is *even more important*, and ten times as difficult. It will come under attack by all of our enemies because they know that through it we gain access to God's **power, comfort, and peace**. As you pray for those who are grieving, ask God to *strengthen and defend* their faith against every assault from without and within by the **word of Christ**.

(Ephesians 2:8; Matthew 21:21; Romans 10:17)

- i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, thank You for **the gift of faith** given to us upon hearing *Your message*. Please remind us of who You say You are in scripture and **strengthen our faith** through *the power of Your word*. Lord, please uproot and destroy every **seedling of doubt** planted through our discouragement and instead nurture and protect the mustard **seeds of faith** You have blessed us with so that we may *produce much fruit* even in this time of sadness for the glory of Your name."

1. **REMEMBER:** The **power** of our faith lies not in its *quantity*, but in its *focus*. Who it is placed in matters more than how much we have. (Matt. 17:20; Psalm 116:6)

2. Hold onto **HOPE** (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

- a. **NOTE:** Hope **does not** pretend like everything that happens to us *is good*. That would be a lie and our God does not lie and neither does the hope He gives us. What hope does say though is that God **can and will** work everything out *for our good*, even the painful losses we suffer. That is why **hope is vital** for those *who are grieving*. Hope is what gives us the confidence to continue **serving God** even when it *doesn't make sense*, to continue **obeying Him** even when *we don't want to*, and to continue **trusting Him** when we are *faced with doubt*. It's no wonder the Enemy constantly tries to rob us of it when we're hurting. (Romans 8:28; also see Week 12)

- i. **For Ex.** “Dear Lord, I thank You for the **incredible promises** found in Your word. Even though sometimes they seem *too good to be true* I know that You do not lie and because of that we can **hold on tightly** to our hope in what You have said. You warned us that *there would be bad days*, and right now we’re in the middle of them. But You also told us that a brighter future awaits. God, please **fix our eyes heavenward** so that we are filled with Your *holy hope* that endures through every situation, encourages in all circumstances, and inspires despite any disappointment.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Our hope can be **unshakeable** because of *Who* it is placed in. Our firm foundation can weather any storm. (**Heb. 6:19; Psalm 42:11; Matt. 7:24-25**)

3. Lean into **LOVE** (**1 Corinthians 13:7; Romans 8:38**)

- a. **NOTE:** God’s love is what **perfects** and *makes possible* our hope and faith. It is also the **number one target** of *Satan’s attacks* in times of grief. If our Enemy can **distance us** from God by *deceiving us* into believing that He doesn’t really care, then he knows he’s won the battle. That’s why in seasons of loss we must **lean deeply** into God’s love. It is not just a source of *comfort* and *encouragement*, but one of power and strength as well. Therefore we must surround ourselves with **constant reminders** of God’s love so that *every lie* of the Evil One is quickly confronted with the *pure and undefiled truth*. The best way to remember the love of Christ? **Give it to others**. (**Ephesians 3:17-19; Psalm 117:2; 1 John 4:19**)
 - i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for the **amazing love** that led You to send Your son to *the cross* for us. Lord Jesus, thank You *humbling Yourself* for sinful people like us because of this **great love**. Holy Spirit, thank You for *revealing* this **powerful love** to us and *filling us* with it upon our salvation. Teach us, Lord God, to better know this love. May we **experience it** more *deeply* than ever before in this time of grief as we draw closer to You and **cling more tightly** to Your *never ending compassion*.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Through His **great compassion** our God offers *complete healing* for all of our hurt. (**Lamentations 3:32; Deuteronomy 32:39**)

Questions for Reflection:

- Has **discouragement** planted *doubt* in your heart about God’s character?
 - Remember that God is the same in our good times and bad. He **does not change** even when our circumstances do. He is *still good* even when our days are not. (**Hebrews 13:8**)
- Has your gaze **wandered** from *Heaven’s promises* to your *Earthly trials*?
 - While understandable, this is not helpful. Your solution will **not** be found down here. Instead, true *victory* lies up there. (**Ephesians 1:3**)
- Has grief **stifled** your love for *God and others*?
 - Turn back. Regain **the first love** you have lost through *confession* and *repentance*. (**Rev. 2:4-5**)