

November 12, 2023

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT
II Corinthians 1:3-7, John 14:25-27
Rev. George Fletcher

Tragedy, conflict, sorrow, and loss always leave hurting, suffering people in its wake. No matter who we are, and no matter what causes our trouble or our hurt or our suffering, the God of all comfort is the God who comforts us all.

What can be said for all who are troubled or sorrowing or grieving? Jesus said in John 14, “Let not your hearts be troubled.” How do we get to that point? We start by acknowledging the grief we have, and our need for God’s comfort.

No-one fully escapes the shadow of grief. In our best moments, we know that grief is a blessing, because it helps us deal with our pain. The Book of Revelation says that, in heaven, there will be “no more grief.” The reason is because there will be no more loss. The disciples in the Upper Room with Jesus were about to lose Jesus Himself in His physical presence. Their hearts would be troubled. They would grieve. As long as people and relationships and health and jobs and dreams can be lost, we will still need the strange gift of grief.

The gift of grief takes different forms in different people’s lives, but if we reduce it down, we can make at least 3 statements about it.

I. Grief is the inevitable price of love.

If we love deeply, then it is very likely that we will, eventually, grieve deeply. Just about the only way to never grieve, is to never love.

II. Grief is the lingering echo of life.

Grief is, in some strange way, the last lingering tie that binds us to the one we no longer have.

III. Grief is the best chance for hope.

...we do not grieve the same as others do who have no hope.

I Thessalonians 4:13

Grief gives us a choice. We can choose to write off God and be bitter, or we can choose to put our lives in God’s hands. Our grief can drive us to God.



What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?

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