



Lost A Christian You Love?

Costly in the sight of the Lord... —Psalm 16:15

Christian, have you ever lost a loved one, a friend who is a believer, a close family member ...or maybe more than one? Please know that our gracious heavenly Father shares in your sorrow. I feel so sorry for people in pain.

Billy Graham once said: "*Our confidence in the future is based firmly on the fact of what God has done for us in Christ. Because Christ is alive we need never despair, no matter what our situation may be; 'Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him... For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (See Romans 6:8, 23).*"

*From Him, who loves me and my brothers so well, what power our souls can long sever?
Shall life or death, or earth or hell? No—we are His and in Him forever.*

***We who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them
in the clouds to meet the Lord.*** —1 Thessalonians 4:17

Do you feel like talking about your particular type of grieving? Maybe your loss wasn't due to something bad at all, but someone you were close to got a job promotion or transfer and moved away. Then again, perhaps you've lost a Christian friend ...that's still living. Man, I hate that about life on this planet. Did they backslide or just wander off? How painful, but prodigals can still return. I have seen em and I have been one. Yup, I've experienced that before ...sometimes more than once. You see, my wife, Liney and I have had the privilege of raising teenage boys—rascals, who have each respectively, had their plan. Some felt they should be "*the head of our household*" on occasion. You say, No, that could never happen. Oh yes, and they wouldn't mind me telling you this! One of them, who didn't get what he wanted, ran away from home two times before he reached adulthood and a new life as a soldier in Iraq. He ran from a little hammer so to speak, to a bigger hammer. Looking back, he can now chuckle about it. And in the military, they don't always give him what he wants either, but he's growing up.

I also remember wanting to be in charge at that age ..and sometimes earlier—"***When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things***" (1 Cor. 13:11).

Maybe you've experienced something like that before even with your grown-up kids. Whatever, God knows what that's all about. And what flawed Christian parent doesn't experience such trials at one point or another? Sometimes decent pastors and employers experience something akin to that... as well as loss.

I believe that parents must believe right, live right, love right, remain in agreement, try to understand and win in all domestic power struggles ...and I'm not talking about power struggles with God or each other. Because of course, we are called to represent and properly submit to God's authority ...and to each other in the Lord. And the husband has most of the responsibility in the home. He must humbly lead with God's strength, and first he must listen and follow ...Christ! Christian parent, to firmly hold on to what you know is biblical, loving and right ...might cost you. It might introduce you to a pain you've never experienced before. But it's worth it to stay uncompromisingly focused on Jesus! He can help you through the valley of the shadow of death and every other valley.

I have a few friends that have lost loved ones through death lately and now, as you can well imagine, they find themselves in a very painful grieving process that they never invited ...and my heart really goes out to them. God's heart does even more! I don't know their exact pain; I don't understand why it happened, but I wish I had the right words with which to comfort them. God does—fitting passages in the Bible. He understands far more than we can. Christ wants us to, **“Comfort one another with these words”** (1 Thess. 4:18).

The psalmist told God, **“Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles”** (Ps. 119:50)... **“Great peace have those who love Your law”** (Ps. 119:165)... **“You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side”** (Ps. 71:21). At times it's so understandable for the bereaved to feel angry at the circumstances, at the evil, at...

Hey, please don't be mad at the One who is hurting *with you*, the One whose fault *it is not*... the One who *deeply cares* and stands ready to *help you* most.

The Bible says, **“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints”** (Ps. 16:15). Some scholars render verse 15 like this: **“Costly in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”**

I really love how the Scriptures describe how God was inquiring at the grave of His very close friend, Lazarus, who died. You remember the story. Jesus, **“G-R-O-A-N-E-D in the Spirit, and WAS TROUBLED, and said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto Him, Lord, come and see. JESUS W-E-P-T. Then said the Jews, Behold how He loved him!”** (Jn. 11:33-36, emphasis mine). What took Him so long? They thought God's arrival was late, but His timing is always perfect—even in the death of a believer.

Why did Jesus make such sounds and shed those tears there? Because Christ can feel; He can empathize! It was because He saw the depth of grief that His close friends were suffering under at Lazarus' tomb and He just also had to cry with them (Jn. 11:33-35).

In this world, unless a person is some huge “A list”-celebrity for decades, their passing will soon be forgotten. All the glory of their accomplishments will also fade away—by all but a small circle of relatives and friends. But Jesus showed us that the death of the humblest believer causes His heart great pain and He doesn't forget them. You can be separated from people, but you don't have to be from God. Your born again friends will see and recognize you again—you'll enjoy sweet fellowship again.

But can you imagine how Lazarus actually had to die twice and how his loved ones had to deal with all that? Double ouch! Personally, I'd rather enjoy the rapture freestyle like a pro wake boarder getting air ...or just like riding Space Mountain at Disneyland.

Everyday you and I are *sadly* (I'm talking about those of us on earth) ..further away from the last time when we saw our loved one that we lost ...or in some cases, loved ones. I can grasp why they were taken from us (or why they volitionally walked away, if they're still living). But for those people who were once close to them, who were left behind and now acutely feel it, it is of course sometimes very hard to know how to adequately minister to these people...or to know how to somehow make their lives better when they are feeling such great sadness inside. Man, I wish that I could make their life ...or *your life* better in some respects, but sometimes that is totally out of my hands. I hate being so limited in how I can help.

You know what I'm talking about. Sometimes it's like my hands are tied to even comfort those closest to me ...like my wife, but I can be there for them. I can listen well. I can weep with them and earnestly pray for them in faith... thoroughly. I often wish I could do so much more, but I must trust the Lord to intervene and heal them in His own time and Way. Are you in His Way (Jesus)? **You can be!** That is where to be when you have open wounds, hurts, aches, unanswered questions... or don't have any.

Christian, there is no time to exacerbate things by setting up some dumb idol, or by taking a stride from your Master's side, or by neglecting so great a salvation (see [Heb. 2:3](#))! There's no time for missing it with the Word when you lovingly ***"convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching"*** ([2 Tim. 4:2](#)). There's no time for turning your ears away from the truth ([v. 4](#)). There's not enough time to unnecessarily put off receiving your healing and restoration ([Isa. 61:1](#)). There's no time to avoid seeking the Lord for each other in love ...and for the unbeliever's that we know. There's no time to tear-down people when we could be building them up. There's really no time to skip-out on needed fellowship or regular Bible study... or to believe lies about each other ..or to take up a false offense for another.

What is there enough time for? There's time to wait on the Lord to see your strength renewed like the eagles. There's moments to ***"consider one another . . . , not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together"*** ([Heb. 10:24-25](#)). But there's simply no time to forsake your own family, friends and the foreigners.

Why have so many seemingly perfect relationships gone wrong? Why do we have to lose loved ones? The answer to why things go wrong and why we experience loss is that God's original intent has been radically thwarted in a very tragic event that Christian theologians refer to as *"the Fall."*

This *Fall* was a mortal catastrophe. It was a self-inflicted-uber-wound that mere humans could not reverse. It occurred when the first created man and woman totally misused the freedom that the Lord entrusted to them. Although our heavenly Father made humans for the very purpose of loving Him and bearing His very essence, He never forced Himself upon them. You remember how the man and woman (Adam and Eve) were totally free to make choices—to choose this caring God and all the joy, love, fulfillment and ecstasy that He brought to them. He had planed a beautiful future for them together. Or they could selfishly choose to go their own way without the Lord ...on a rugged path infested with all the sickness, pain, alienation, sorrow and death that would result from

such alienation from God. They got to choose and man let ego, lust, and rebellion enter into the gorgeous picture ..to mar it. Adam and Eve were influenced when they listened to the voice of an evil, arrogant, deceiving adversary ...who wasn't clad in red spandex head to toe with a rubber pointy tail (the devil).

And the Lord honored Adam and Eve's choice just like He will yours.

He wouldn't be pushy because He's not like us, so He withdrew Himself from their lives and left them alone to look for their own way. And things headed south fast. Without God, they were alienated from their eternal purpose and lost their valid significance. It took fallen people only a few generations to lose virtually all their awareness of God's existence and loving presence. Instead they scrapped, scraped, and staked out their own territory among the thorns... becoming possessive, sweaty, and territorial.

Unfortunately, death also entered into that flawless pristine situation. Then they fiercely protected "*their stuff*" and "*their territory*" pushing themselves farther apart. Their focus on self quickly fostered the pride, selfishness, morbid alienation, seething-anger and hatred that have infected the human family for the rest of its history.

We can't know why everything happens as it does, but God is still in control. People are complex creatures. It's hard to know why some people do the things they do, but child of God, if the one you lost through death is a Christian, then everyday you are getting closer—closer to the day when you will be reunited with them in heaven ..where we will all know as we have been known (see 1 Cor. 13:12). We can take comfort in knowing Jesus well!

Death cannot permanently separate those who are one in Christ.

*When we are happy or when we are blue, God is aware of whatever we do;
All of our sorrows He takes as His own—and He will never leave us alone. —Hess*

As David said after the death of his son, **"I will go to him, but he will not return to me"** (2 Sam. 12:23, niv). The Lord certainly never finds enjoyment in the death of His children, but he can perfectly mend our broken hearts as we take it all to Him!

In Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me. —Psalm 139:16

Yes, I suggest that it's healthy to mourn and grieve after loss. Don't cut that short! Post-Fall-of-man, this process has unfortunately become fairly normal and a part of the universal human experience through which we all must sadly pass. Someone has said that grief is now a "*gift from God.*" It just may be God's way of helping us to react to the tremendous shock of death and its emotional aftermath.

I know it's OK to respectfully explain to God all your feelings of guilt, anger, frustration, fear, confusion, or despair if you're feeling these things. Those kinds of feelings and thoughts should be expressed, and not be repressed or rejected by the sorrower. It's good to get real honest vertically in talking through things regarding your soul. God wants to help you with your mind, will and emotions. Again, God feels for you. He really wants to hear all about it. He cares and will bear our heavy heartaches and tragic losses and then give us His supernatural solace, hope (that's living), and encouragement that goes beyond understanding. Life may seem totally valueless or blah for a while, but

remember Christ's love will seep in—it's permanent. The numbness will recede like the tide. He's the Solid Rock of our salvation, the firm foundation on which we can rebuild a life that's good.

I like to ask myself: Kurt, are these tears you shed for your loved one who died? Are they shed for others they left, or for yourself? Remember, when there are two Christians who love each other, one day more than likely (unless you're both raptured out of here together), there will be one who must leave the other one behind. Yes, no matter how strongly you love each other this will happen. Never think of going after them into eternity with your own timing and terms, for God has something for you to do—He ain't finished with you. He wants you fishing together with Him. The sin of suicide is so selfish.

Death; it came with the Fall, but most people don't die at the same moment that their loved one does. Yes, two people that love each other will someday part. And then the one left on earth must carry on with that inner sorrow. Originally, people were never designed to feel that sting on either side of such severing. But now because of the cross and resurrection, Jesus can thoroughly heal it. Oh death where is your sting—Christians never die!

Are you now grieving due to this type of separation? I'm so sorry. Think about this: If your loved one had the opportunity to return to earth again, they would never come even close to wanting to return ...pre-Second Coming of Christ. And you remaining back here has basically spared your loved one from going through the pain and deep sorrow that you are now feeling. But the Lord is faithful and He will walk with you. He will soothe, console, strengthen and use you if you'll let Him. He'll be close ...until you can soon meet again, face to face in the light and joy of His presence.

Have Kurt's fishing devos helped you grow closer to the ultimate Fisherman or aided you in witnessing better? Click [here](#) to let him know what God is doing in your life!

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Here are some comforting verses to meditate upon:

Jesus said, *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"* (Matt. 5:4)

Prayerfully, look at the entire context where Jesus Himself wept at the grave of Lazarus in John 11:35.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:25-26).

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1).

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.... For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better" (Phil. 1:21, 23).

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and

undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Rev 21:4).

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16, nkjv).

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