



Real World/Real God

God's Heart for the Hurting

Pastor Tevon Taylor

Christ did not call us to comfort, but to a complete abandonment of ourselves.

“...deny yourself (give up your own way – NLT), take up your cross and follow Me.”

Matt 16:24

“Wisdom is supreme—so get wisdom. And whatever else you get, get understanding.”

Proverbs 4:7 CSB

“...pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains...”

— C.S. Lewis

“P.A.I.N. means Pay Attention Internally Now.”

-Unknown

-There are more than 200 specific classifications of Mental Disorders

-1 in 5 adults experiences mental illness in any given year (44 million)

-50% of Americans will be diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder in their lifetime (NAMI)

We who are filled with His Spirit must be hope-bringers to hurting hearts.

How Does God Respond to People in Pain?

GOD SEES YOU IN YOUR STRUGGLES



ELIJAH

“3 Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. 4 Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died.”

5 Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, “Get up and eat!” 6 He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 Then the angel of the Lord came again and touched him and said, “Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you.”

8 So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai,[a] the mountain of God.”

1 Kings 19:3-8 NLT

God’s Response: God saw him, his need for rest, and replenishment.

Encouragement: God sees where you are and God has all you need to sustain you for the journey to where He wants you to be.

GOD’S COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL

JEREMIAH

“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”

Jeremiah 1:5

“Cursed be the day I was born! May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!”

Jeremiah 20:14 NIV

“Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?”

Jeremiah 20:18 NIV



“1 I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the Lord’s wrath.
2 He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; 3 indeed, he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long. 4 He has made my skin and my flesh grow old and has broken my bones. 5 He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship. 6 He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead. 7 He has walled me in so I cannot escape; he has weighed me down with chains. 8 Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer.”

Lamentations 3:1-8, 17-20 NIV

“17 I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is.
18 So I say, “My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the Lord.” 19 I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. 20 I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.”

Lamentations 3:17-20 NIV

God’s Response: God allows us to remember His mercy, goodness, and faithfulness to restore our hope.

“21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: 22 Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him.” 25 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;”

Lamentations 3:21-25 NIV

“When you become consumed by God’s call on your life, everything will take on new meaning and significance. You will begin to see every facet of your life – including your pain – as a means through which God can work to bring others to Himself.”

-Charles Stanley

Encouragement: God is with you and He is greater than your rejection, insecurities, and failures. He is faithful and He is your portion.



GOD IS IN CONTROL

JOB

“He was blameless and upright...feared God and turned away from evil.”

Job 1:1; 8.

“Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb?”

Job 3:11 NIV

“I have no peace, no quietness, I have no rest, but only turmoil.”

Job 3:26 NIV

“I loathe my very life, therefore I will give free rein to my complaint and speak out in the bitterness of my soul.”

Job 10:1 NIV

“Why then did you bring me out of the womb? I wish I had died before any eye saw me. 19 If only I had never come into being, or had been carried straight from the womb to the grave!”

Job 10:18-19 NIV

“15 Terrors overwhelm me; my dignity is driven away as by the wind, my safety vanishes like a cloud. 16 “And now my life ebbs away; days of suffering grip me. 17 Night pierces my bones; my gnawing pains never rest.”

Job 30:15-17 NIV

“When you suffer and lose, that does not mean you are being disobedient to God. In fact, it might mean you’re right in the center of His will. The path of obedience is often marked by times of suffering and loss.”

-Chuck Swindoll

Sometimes what you’re going through has nothing to do with you, and everything to do with what God is doing in you.



God's Response: God asks Job a series of questions towards the end of the book of Job. These are questions that Job cannot answer because they are things only God can accomplish.

2 "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.

5 I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes."

Job 42:2, 5

Encouragement: God controls the outcome. God is with you and He is working even in your darkest moments.

"...I am very aware of the fact that pain is necessary to all of us. In my own life, I think I can honestly say that out of the deepest pain has come the strongest conviction of the presence of God and the love of God."

-Elisabeth Elliot

JESUS

And He said to them, 'My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.' And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. And He was saying, 'Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.'"

-Mark 14:34-36

"My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?"

Matt 27:46

"He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief... it was our sorrows that weighed him down...He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."

Isaiah 53:3-5 NLT