

*“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” 1 Peter 3:18*

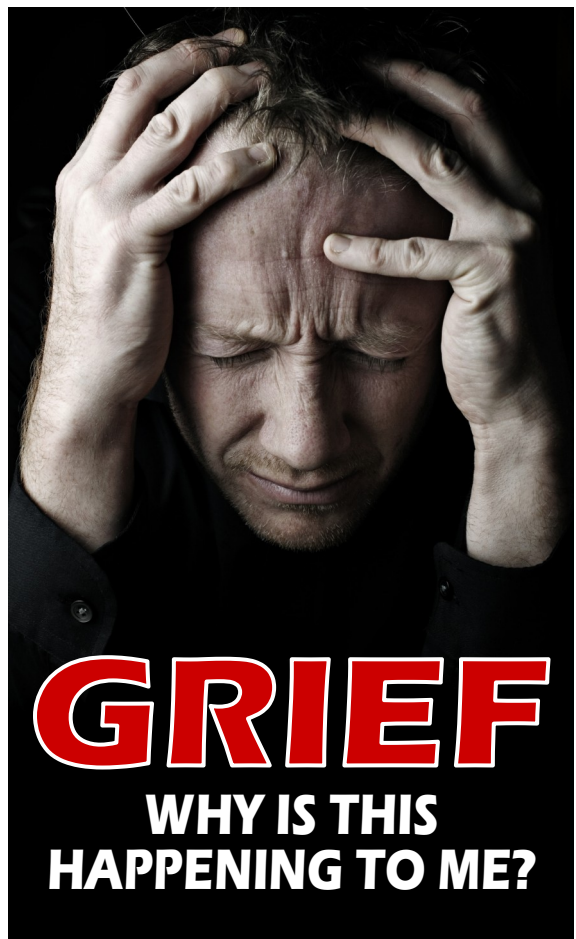
If you will believe in your heart that Jesus died for you, was buried, and arose from the dead, He will give you not only His Spirit to comfort you in your grief, but also eternal life in Heaven where you will never sorrow again.

Revelation 21:4 *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*

Romans 8:18 *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*



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There are times of grief in our life when we ask ourselves, "Why is this happening to me? Is God punishing me for something I've done?" Some wonder this after finding out they have cancer; others wonder this after the death of a child or another family member. God does correct His children in different ways. However, when this is the purpose, we will know it.

There are times when we can look back years later and see God's purpose in allowing these circumstances to take place, while other times we won't know why until after this life is over. Grief is one of the ways God uses to teach us important spiritual lessons.

To the mother and father whose child has died, grief leads them to depend upon God for strength. *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* Psalm 46:1

To the young person left paralyzed after an accident, grief teaches them that their soul is more important than their ambitions.

*"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"* Mark 8:36

To those stricken with cancer and the elderly who suffer daily with pain, grief loosens the hold of our affections on this world and prepares us for the world to come.

*"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* Colossians 3:2

If you are a child of God, Jesus has promised to go with you through your suffering. *"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."* Hebrews 13:5-6

If you are a child of God, He has called you to be conformed to the image of His Son and identify with His suffering. It is a difficult lesson to learn, but we are to count it a privilege to do so.

*"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;"* Philippians 1:29

*"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings..."* Philippians 3:10

Are you a child of God? Our physical birth did not make us one; we must be born again!

*"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* John 1:12-13

*"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* Acts 4:12

Jesus suffered more than any of us could ever imagine when He died on the cross and shed His precious blood to cleanse us of sin.