



When A Loved One Leaves for Heaven

(Christians dealing with the Separation)

Throughout our lives we experience losses. Some that are overwhelming and others that are consuming and make us feel like we just can't go on. With loss comes grief, which is defined as the action or reaction to loss or change. We experience grief during times which are considered happy occasions like marriage or the birth of a child, then there are events such as a friend moving away or kids going off to college, next comes the ones that seem to hurt even deeper, loss of independence, relationships, employment, possessions or our health, and then comes what we perceive as a loss; what the world calls death. No matter the loss, we all grieve.

It happens to each one of us sometime during our lives; a loved one leaves for Heaven and we are left with a feeling of emptiness, a void that we think will never be filled. We forget all that we have learned from God's Word and the fact that we have put our trust in God, and we mourn. We may even get angry with God and turn away from Him. We prayed for healing and this was the answer we got. How could God do this to me?

We forget a few very important things, which our faith in Jesus Christ is based on.

First, God answered our prayer. Not the answer we anticipated, but the one God knew was best. For our loved one is healed. They are whole in the truest form, with no more pain or suffering. They are now in the place that they have lived their entire life waiting for, they are with Jesus and enjoying the Glory of the Heavenly Father.

**The righteous perish,
and no one ponders it in his heart;
devout men are taken away,
and no one understands
that the righteous are taken away
to be spared from evil. (Isa 57:1)**

Second, they are not dead, for Jesus conquered death. Their shell may be gone, but their spirit is alive and well. I often ask people would they feel the same if their loved one had left on a 50 year mission, to a remote area with no phone, mail, or communication of any kind; would they feel the same. Most answer no. It is because of the word death, which to Christians should have no meaning. We may be separated for a short period of time, but thanks to Jesus we will be together again for an eternity.

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:9-10)

Third, remember the person you have loved over the years. Not the shell, which has changed and deteriorated, but the spirit, which has grow and become stronger throughout the years. We forget sometimes where the priority truly is, not the flesh but the spirit. God put His emphasis there and so should we. So let the spirit of your loved one be the part you remember. Focus on the happiness that you have had together; then, look forward to the time when you will be together again.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he die, yet will he live. (John 11:25)

Forth, you have someone to fill the emptiness or void left behind; IT IS JESUS. He will help you through the rough times, carrying you when you are down, lighting the darkness that may surround you, and bringing Joy back into your lives. Through your Faith in Jesus you know that the separation from your loved one is only temporary.

Look to the time when you and your loved ones will be together again for an eternity with your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You must trust in Jesus and all that He has promised. Let Him guide you, His teachings strengthen you, and His Words comfort you.

The world renowned movie director Cecil B. DeMille was also a Christian. It was he who first dramatically depicted the Biblical stories on the screen. Shortly before his death, he wrote the following.

“One day as he was lying in a canoe, a big beetle came out of the water and climbed up into the canoe. He watched it idly for some time. Under the heat of the sun, the beetle proceeded to die. Then a strange thing happened. His glistening black shell cracked all the way down his back. Out of it came a shapeless mass, quickly transformed into a beautiful, brilliantly colored life. As he watched in fascination, there gradually unfolded iridescent wings from which the sunlight flashed a thousand colors. The wings spread wide, as if in worship of the sun. The blue-green body took shape. Before his eyes had occurred a metamorphosis, the transformation of a hideous beetle into a gorgeous dragonfly, which started dipping

and soaring over the water. And the thought came to him” continued Mr. DeMille, “that if the Creator works such wonders with the lowest of creatures, what may be in store for the human spirit?”

Find comfort in knowing your loved one is in a better place. Imagine the joy they are experiencing right now. Think of how they must be feeling as they get to meet Jesus, their Lord and Savior.

A song came out in the year 2001 which touched me in an incredible way. It sparked my imagination of the Glory to come. Here are some of the lyrics:

~

I can only imagine, What it will be like
When I walk, By your side
I can only imagine, What my eyes will see
When your face, Is before me
I can only imagine
Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel
Will I dance for you Jesus, or in awe of you be still
Will I stand in your presence, or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing hallelujah, will I be able to speak at all
I can only imagine
I can only imagine, when that day comes
And I find myself, standing in the Son
I can only imagine, when all I will do
Is forever, forever worship you
I can only imagine

~

May you always see God’s Blessings given to you each day!

Pastor Scott Jones