

Tears of Sorrow

... Songs of Victory!

Two terrible tragedies have wounded our community. A young man's life is suddenly taken in a plane crash, and three cherished daughters are left fatherless. Another family is decimated by a senseless auto collision. Eight new graves filled within just a few days of each other. Sorrow invades our lives, leaving our emotions raw and our faith challenged with questions of: **"God, why?"**

Why is a question that begs an answer. But the walk of faith we are called to doesn't always guarantee answers. In the Bible, the writer to the Hebrews declares:

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see [or understand].

Hebrews 11:1 {The Message}

God's guarantee to people of faith is help and comfort for today and the promised hope for tomorrow. That is what faith holds onto. That is what the eyes of faith clearly see, even through burning tears of sorrow.

But how can someone be expected to have such faith in their church or religion? **They can't.** Faith that will hold you up and carry you through storms like these can only be faith in something greater than man can create or church doctrines can devise. Relational faith like this can only be found in the living God Himself—the Author and Finisher of our faith—Jesus Christ. The One who not only knows our sorrows {Isaiah 53:4}, but is victorious over death, hell, and the grave:

When this happens—when our perishable earthly bodies have been transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die—then at last the Scriptures will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 {NLT}

And will one day turn all our sorrows into songs of victory!

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

Psalms 98:1 {NKJV}

Pastor Bill