
PASTOR'S CORNER

From the Desk of Pastor Daniel Simmons

Book of the Month

What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do

- *God Will Make a Way*

By: Dr. Henry Cloud &

Dr. John Townsend

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Scripture Readings:

FAITH (NIV)

Week of *May 6-12, 2018*

Isaiah 43:2

Week of *May 13-19, 2018*

Romans 8:18

Week of *May 20-26, 2018*

Proverbs 31:25

Week of *May 27-31, 2018*

Isaiah 41:10

When Our Hearts Are Broken

(Many Members, One Body)

...but He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you [My lovingkindness and My mercy are more than enough—always available—regardless of the situation]: for [My] power is being perfected [and is completed and shows itself most effectively] in [your] weakness." Therefore, I will all the more gladly boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ [may completely enfold me and] may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (AMP)

We all know that death is an inevitable part of the life cycle wherein our spirit exits from life in this world as we know it and enters our eternal home where our Savior lives. We understand this, and - *as believers in Jesus Christ* - our faith allows us to accept it. However, no matter how strong we think we are in faith, *the death of a loved one is a very tough pill to swallow.*

Unbiased to our age, health status, character, responsibilities, life activities, ethnicity, religious preferences, etc., death silences the living spirit – leaving an all-encompassing *external* void once occupied by lives whose habits, scents, and sounds established security, joy and stability in our lives. *Internally*, our hearts are literally broken into pieces. *We struggle with our spiritual*

connection which bleeds from the strain of the physical and emotional separation we now suffer in longing for our loved ones.

Our imaginings of such times can never prepare us for the reality of death's permanence. So much of our normalcy becomes nonexistent, and the newness of change is invading and not easily accepted. *If we could only yawn and find ourselves awakening from a terrible nightmare...*

But through it all, we can know that the order of our lives and the lives of those we love is set and carried out by the Creator of life itself. And we can also know that - as sure as God Himself created us, purposed our lives and set our time in motion (*regardless how long or how short we may think life appears to be*) - *He can, and He will mend our brokenness and restore us with an abundant joy once again.* The process is painful, but it has a perpetual purpose for God's Kingdom plan.

God knows how we like to make deals and compromises on the matters of our lives to ensure that the outcomes are convenient and pleasing to our preferences. That's why He tells us clearly in Jeremiah 29:11, "*For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*" God is not going to allow us to thwart the amazing plans He has for all our lives merely for the sake of our wanting to keep things the way we like them to be. No, His plans are far greater than any amount of imaginable possibilities our mortal minds can conceive. And His will shall be done in our lives to completion, just as it already has been done in Heaven.

So, what hope is there for us when we experience loss and suffer the pain of a broken heart? *Our hope is in knowing* that God is always up to something in our lives. Even the process of loss and grief serves for the greater purpose of His Kingdom to come, and it will bring forth His Glory through our brokenness and weakness. *Our hope is in knowing* that He holds us in the palm of His gentle, caring hands, and He will keep us there even after he remolds and infuses our hearts with His strength and His joy for all the days ahead in which we will live out our lives. *Our hope is in knowing* that *there is an appointed time when all of God's children will be together again* to bask in His Presence, His love, and His glory...*forevermore.*

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)