

Bible Verses on Grief

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
- Psalm 34:18

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
- 1 Peter 5:7 -

For though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his loving-kindnesses.
- Lamentations 3:32

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.
- Psalm 31:9-10 -

He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
- Isaiah 53:3-4 -
I pour out my complaint before him; I

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tell my trouble before him.
- Psalm 142:2 -

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.
- Psalm 119:50 -

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.
- Psalm 55:22 -

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
wbcoc.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Why We Must Not Blame God For Death

Throughout the various miracle ages of the past, God has directly (miraculously) punished certain people with death. We think of Nadab and Abihu in the Old Testament (Leviticus 10:1-2) and Ananias and Sapphira in the New Testament (Acts 5:1-11). Even in those cases the deaths *were not God's fault*. The fault was with the people for engaging in death-worthy behavior. God could not be blamed for their deaths.

We today live in the gospel age. Miracles ended upon the confirmation (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:4) and final deliverance of the gospel message (1 Corinthians 13:8-10; Jude 3). God is not today miraculously intervening and interacting in people's lives. God does not cause sociopaths to commit mass murders. God does not cause tsunamis, hurricanes and tornados that kill people. Natural disasters are the "natural" results of millennia-old weather patterns. As Solomon said, "*time and chance happen to them all*" (Ecclesiastes 9:11). Death sometimes happens as a result of one simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

- Those who die in car crashes die as the result of mechanical or human error (either theirs or of someone else). God does not make people drink and drive or text and drive. People who consume alcohol or other drugs and then operate motor vehicles increase their own chances of dying in a car.
- God does not cause wheel bearings to go out or tires to blow out or deer to walk on highways in front of drivers.
- God does not cause workplace accidents. People choose their occupations. It is a statistical fact that some jobs are more dangerous than others. For example, if one chooses to be a logger, farmer, airplane pilot or roofer he increases his risk of death.
- God does not cause people to engage in risky behavior. People die from mountain climbing, auto racing, ATV riding and from hunting-related accidents. These deaths are the result of personal choices — not divine intervention.
- God does not cause people to contract deadly viruses or cancer or heart disease. Humans became vulnerable to sickness and disease as a physical consequence of being cast out of the garden of Eden (Genesis 3). This subjected mankind to

environmental forces that negatively affect the body. As a result of being in this environment, humans are subject DNA copying errors, cell damage and cell replication errors (resulting in cancer), deadly bacterial infections, diabetes, heart disease, viruses...etc. These are not God's fault.

Conclusion

It is important that we deal with grief when it grips us. I have laid out Bible teaching and examples that show us some things that we can do that will help us through our grief. I have also shown that it is wrong and even sinful to blame God for someone's death. Rather than blame God, we should actually thank God for the time that we did have with the one that we lost. We should thank Him our own lives and for the lives of our friends and family who remain. We should remind ourselves that we too will one day die and we should "*number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom*" (Psalm 90:12). We should see ourselves as sojourners on this earth and we should "*pass the time of our sojourning here in fear*" (1 Peter 1:17).

- Tim Haile -