

QUALITY
OF
LIFE
BIBLE
STUDY



Loss®

COMPILED BY
S.MCRAE

LOSS

“Quality of Life Series”

LEADER: Steven Tyler, lead guitarist for Aerosmith, once said... “Of all the things I’ve ever lost, I miss my mind the most.”

Well...Hopefully we can hang on to our mind, but if we continue to enjoy God’s great big wonderful world, we can count on one thing...we will suffer loss of some kind at some point.

LEADER: It has been said, “Remember that everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something, and has lost something.” You are not alone.

- What have you lost?
- Just listen to the prayer requests every week...these describe losses of health, jobs, dreams, relationships, friends and family.
- What’s important is how we deal with these losses.

READER: QUOTE # 1

Source ~ <http://www.worldofquotes.com/topic/Loss/1/index.html>

“Oh, my friend, it’s not what they take away from you that counts. It’s what you do with what you have left.” - William Cowper 1731-1800 Lawyer/Author/Hymn Writer, Collaborated with John Newton, author of Amazing Grace

READER: QUOTE #2

Source ~ <http://www.entwagon.com/cgi-bin/quotes/quotes.pl?cat=Adversity>

“Trials, temptations, disappointments -- all these are helps instead of hindrances, if one uses them rightly. They not only test the fiber of character but strengthen it. Every conquering temptation represents a new fund of moral energy. Every trial endured and weathered in the right spirit makes a soul nobler and stronger than it was before.” - James Buckman 1818-1884 chemist, college professor, museum curator, geologist, archaeologist, author, farmer

READER: “When A Tree’s Life Is Threatened” - By Terry Fisher, San Mateo, California

Source ~ <http://www.higherpraise.org/illustrations/grief.htm>

In her book *First We Quit Our Jobs*, Marilyn J. Abraham writes: “We signed up for a hike with a ranger, who told us a remarkable thing: when a tree’s life is threatened, stressed by the elements of fire, drought, or other calamity, it twists beneath its bark to reinforce and make itself stronger. On the surface, this new inner strength may not be visible, for the bark often continues to give the same vertical appearance. Only when the exterior is stripped away, or when the tree is felled, are its inner struggles revealed.” God can use our grief to strengthen us in ways that are not visible to the world.

READER: QUOTE #3

Source ~ <http://www.entwagon.com/cgi-bin/quotes/quotes.pl?cat=Adversity>

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” - Martin Luther King Jr. 1929-1968, Nobel Prize Winner, 1964

LEADER: Have you ever lost a job or the interview for one or bombed on a goal.

Let’s have a look at the win/loss record of Abe Lincoln and how he handled it.

LEADER: “Abe”

Source ~ <http://www.sermonillustrator.org/illustrator/sermon1/abraham.htm>

- Age 22 - failed in business
- Age 23 - ran for legislature and was defeated
- Age 24 - failed again in Buenos
- Age 26 - sweetheart died
- Age 27 - had a nervous breakdown
- Age 29 - defeated for speaker
- Age 31 - defeated for elector

Age 34 - defeated for Congress
Age 37 - elected to Congress
Age 39 - defeated for Congress
Age 46 - defeated for Senate
Age 47 - defeated for vice president
Age 49 - defeated for Senate
Age 51 - elected president of the United States

This is the record of Abraham Lincoln. Throughout his life he suffered many more defeats than victories, but because he never gave up he won the highest office of the land.

LEADER: What can we learn from Abe? NEVER GIVE UP!

READER: QUOTE #4

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

“The greatest test of courage on earth is to bear defeat without losing heart.” - Robert Ingersoll 1833-1899
Philosopher/Lawyer/Orator

READER: QUOTE #5

Source ~ <http://www.worldofquotes.com/topic/Grief/1/index.html>

“Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though it is hard to realize this. For the world was built to develop character, and we must learn that the setbacks and griefs which we endure help us in our marching onward.” - Henry Ford 1863-1947 Automobile Manufacturer

READER: QUOTE #6

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

“When all else is lost, the future still remains.” - Christian Bovee 1820- 1904 American Writer/Editor

READER: QUOTE #7

Source ~ <http://www.entwagon.com/cgi-bin/quotes/quotes.pl?cat=Adversity>

“When walking through the ‘valley of shadows,’ remember, a shadow is cast by a Light.” - H.K. Barclay

READER: QUOTE #8

Source ~ <http://www.entwagon.com/cgi-bin/quotes/quotes.pl?cat=Adversity>

“Gray skies are just clouds passing over.” - Duke Ellington, American jazz musician

READER: QUOTE #9

Source ~ <http://www.entwagon.com/cgi-bin/quotes/quotes.pl?cat=Adversity>

“Every silver lining has a cloud.” - Avon

LEADER: Have you ever lost at love or lost a friendship?

READER: QUOTE #10

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

“’Tis better to have loved and lost than never loved at all.” - Lord Alfred Tennyson 1809-1892, Most famous poet of the Victorian age.

READER: QUOTE #11

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/friendship/>

“By friendship you mean the greatest love, the greatest usefulness, the most open communication, the noblest sufferings, the severest truth, the heartiest counsel, and the greatest union of minds which brave men and women are capable.” - Jeremy Taylor 1613-1667, English bishop & theological & devotional writer

READER: 2 Corinthians 4:8

“But We have this treasure in Earthen vessels...”

LEADER: Never regret loving someone......but remember you can only make your own choices, you can't make choices for the one you have loved.

LEADER: What about lost time? Anybody ever lose any of that?

READER: QUOTE # 12

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

"You may delay, but time will not, and lost time is never found again." - Benjamin Franklin 1706- 1790, Entrepreneur, statesman, scientist & philosopher

READER: QUOTE # 13

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

"He lives long that lives well, and time misspent is not lived, but lost." - Thomas Fuller 1608-1661, English clergyman, antiquarian, wit, historian

READER: "Your Bank Account"

Source ~ <http://www.sermonillustrator.org/illustrator/sermon1a/yourbank.htm>

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!!!! Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow". You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

READER: QUOTE # 14

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

"Lost, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, sixty golden minutes. Each set with sixty diamond seconds. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever." - Horace Mann 1796-1859 American educator

READER: Psalm 118:24

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

LEADER: Some of us are losing our youth...Sandi always says she's approaching middle age...I always ask her from which side she's approaching it.

READER: QUOTE # 15

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

"The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm." - Aldous Huxley 1894-1961 English writer & critic

READER: QUOTE #16

Source ~ http://www.entwagon.com/cgi-bin/quotes/quotes.pl?cat=Age_And_Aging

"The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important." - Martin Luther King Jr., 1929-1968, American Black Leader, Nobel Prize Winner, 1964

READER: QUOTE #17

Source ~ http://www.entwagon.com/cgi-bin/quotes/quotes.pl?cat=Age_And_Aging

"When I was young I was amazed at Plutarch's statement that the elder Cato began at the age of eighty to learn Greek. I am amazed no longer. Old age is ready to undertake tasks that youth shirked because they would take too long." - W. Somerset Maugham 1874-1965, British Novelist, Playwright

READER: QUOTE #18

Source ~ http://www.entwagon.com/cgi-bin/quotes/quotes.pl?cat=Age_And_Aging

“You can’t help getting older, but you don’t have to get old.” - George Burns 1896-1996, American Comedy Actor

READER: QUOTE #19

Source ~ http://www.entwagon.com/cgi-bin/quotes/quotes.pl?cat=Age_And_Aging

“To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent that is to triumph over old age.” - Thomas B. Aldrich 1836-1907, American Writer, Editor

READER: 2 Corinthians 4:16

Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

READER: Isaiah 46:4

*Even to your old age I will be the same,
And even to your graying years I will bear you!
I have done it, and I will carry you;
And I will bear you and I will deliver you.*

LEADER: Have any of you ever been realllly sick...had to have an operation...felt like you were losing your health?

READER: James 5: 13-16

13Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. 14Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. 16Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

LEADER: Do you feel like you’ve lost your dreams...or maybe they’ve changed on you?

READER: QUOTE # 20

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

“A great deal of talent is lost to the world for want of a little courage. Every day sends to their graves obscure men whom timidity prevented from making a first effort.” - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 1749-1832, German philosopher, scientist & writer

READER: QUOTE # 21

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

“If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost, that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.” - Henry David Thoreau 1917-1862, American philosopher & naturalist, writer of Walden

READER: Jeremiah 29:11-12

11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

LEADER: What about selfishness and generosity...ever lost anything there?

READER: QUOTE # 22

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

“What I spent, is gone; what I kept, I lost; but what I gave away will be mine forever.” - Ethel Percy Andrus 1884-1967 Educator founded, American Ass’n of Retired Persons & Nat’l Retired Teachers Ass’n

READER: QUOTE # 23

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." - Martin Luther 1483-1546 German Reformation leader

READER: QUOTE # 24

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." - Saint Basil the Great 329-379 Greek Patriarch/Church Leader

READER: Philippians 2:1-4

1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

READER: Matthew 22:36-40

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

LEADER: What about the loss of some of our spiritual liberties?

We've learned in weeks past...It only takes one person complaining and we lose ground.

READER: QUOTE #25

Source ~ <http://www.wallbuilders.com/resources/search/detail.php?ResourceID=64>

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." - Edmund Burke 1729-1797 British Statesman/philosopher/Author

READER: Exodus 18:21

21 "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens."

READER: Song of Solomon 8:13

Your companions hearken to your voice, so speak!

LEADER: We've learned in the last few lessons...we can make a difference...we must VOTE...and WRITE!

Senators polled stated 20 letters could change their vote.

LEADER: And what about the servicemen and women we lose who die serving our country?

READER: QUOTE # 26

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

"Dear Madam, —I have been shown in the files of the War Department a Statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom. Yours, very sincerely and respectfully, President Abraham Lincoln" - Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865 16th US President, From Letter to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, Nov. 21, 1864. (Records later corrected: only two sons died.)

READER: John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

READER: “Good Grief” #1 By Victor Yap (Excerpt) - Psychology Today

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=60416&ContributorID=31>

Charlie Brown, from the popular Peanuts comic strip, blurts out two words whenever he is stuck, trapped, or frustrated. His favorite expression is “Good grief!”

Death or bereavement in the family is a hurting, devastating, and overwhelming affair. Recovering from the loss of a loved one or family member is a slow, painful, and lengthy process. Researchers from the Medical College of Virginia, in a study reported in Psychology Today, concluded that the death of a close relative is the single biggest contributor to depression. A serious illness would increase a person’s risk of depression by 330%, divorce/breakup raises it to an unhealthy 1,130%, serious marital problem and assault pushes risk to an alarming 1,400%, but the risk of depression soars to a dangerous 1,500% in the death of a close relative.

LEADER: How do we deal with the loss of a loved one...we’ve all experienced that or will.

READER: “Crippled Daughter” - The Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching & Preachers, W. Wiersbe

Source ~ http://www.bible.org/illus.asp?topic_id=682

A miserable looking woman recognized F. B. Meyer on the train and ventured to share her burden with him. For years she had cared for a crippled daughter who brought great joy to her life. She made tea for her each morning, then left for work, knowing that in the evening the daughter would be there when she arrived home. But the daughter had died, and the grieving mother was alone and miserable. Home was not “home” anymore.

Meyer gave her wise counsel. “When you get home and put the key in the door,” he said, “say aloud, ‘Jesus, I know You are here!’ and be ready to greet Him directly when you open the door. And as you light the fire tell Him what has happened during the day; if anybody has been kind, tell Him; if anybody has been unkind, tell Him, just as you would have told your daughter. At night stretch out your hand in the darkness and say, ‘Jesus, I know You are here!’”

Some months later, Meyer was back in that neighborhood and met the woman again, but he did not recognize her. Her face radiated joy instead of announcing misery. “I did as you told me,” she said, “and it has made all the difference in my life, and now I feel I know Him.”

READER: 1 Thessalonians 4:13

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

READER: QUOTE # 27

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

“The happiest, sweetest, tenderest homes are not those where there has been no sorrow, but those which have been overshadowed with grief, and where Christ’s comfort was accepted. The very memory of the sorrow is a gentle benediction that broods ever over the household, like the silence that comes after prayer. There is a blessing sent from God in every burden of sorrow.” - James Russell Miller 1840-1912), US Presbyterian clergyman, author of many devotional books

READER: Galatians 6:2

“Share each other’s troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord’s command”

READER: “Reflections: Suffering and Grief” - Maria Boulding, Prayer: Our Journey Home

Source ~ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/006/28.67.html>

To regard grief as somehow unworthy of a Christian who believes in the resurrection is to forget the example of Christ who was so often “moved with compassion,” who wept at his loss of Lazarus and prayed the longer in his agony. We cannot short-circuit human processes; we have to give the experience time to come home to us before it can become a motive for hope and a promise of fuller life . . . Grief is only unchristian if it is wholly self-centered or if we never emerge from it.

READER: Matthew 5:4

Happy are those who mourn, God will comfort them.

READER: Psalm 34:18

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and He saves those who are crushed in spirit.

READER: “Dear Abby”

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=60416&ContributorID=31>

Abigail Van Buren quoted in Quotable Quotations 166 Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985

“Dear Abby gives this advice on how to respond to those who are grieving: How one handles grief is a personal matter. Let the one who has suffered the loss take the lead. If he feels like talking, encourage him to talk. If he prefers to sit in silence, don’t intrude on his silence. Friends should call, bring food, offer to run errands, and do what needs to be done. A hug, a squeeze of the hand, a look which says, I’m here, if you need me,” conveys more than a thousand words.”

READER: “Good Grief” #2 By Victor Yap (Excerpt) - Psychology Today

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=60416&ContributorID=31>

Grief hardly qualifies as being good, but grieving is good. The loss of a loved one, while it triggers a grave crisis in the home, is not the end of the world for surviving family members. How is grieving good?

Tears help put a person pull together, and not reduce him or her into pieces. Crying is often healthy. It is crucial to and part and parcel of the recovery process. It frees grieving people, and not cripple or shackle them. They get back on their feet quicker, get things off their chest sooner, and get on with their life faster after a good cry. The Bible does not discourage people from crying; 1 Thessalonians 4:13 says do not grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. Romans 12:15 even encourages believers to weep with those who weep. Jesus did not hold back his tears on two occasions, once over Lazarus and another over the city of Jerusalem.

READER: QUOTE #28

Source ~ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/006/28.67.html>

“The principle is simple: when words are most empty, tears are most apt.” - Max Lucado – Christian Author, From: “No Wonder They Call Him the Savior”

READER: QUOTE # 29

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

“Tears are the silent language of grief.” - Voltaire 1694-1778 French poet, historian & satirist

READER: QUOTE # 30

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

“To weep is to make less the depth of grief.” - William Shakespeare 1564-1616 English Poet , from King Henry VI, Part III, Act II

LEADER: Have you ever been to a funeral that was a real celebration of life...where memories and joy filled the room and hearts, because everyone knew their loved one was in heaven?

READER: QUOTE # 31

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

“I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and so bright! There is perfect joy and beauty In this everlasting light. All the pain and grief is over, Every restless tossing passed; I am now at peace forever, Safely home in Heaven at last. Did you wonder I so calmly Trod the valley of the shade? Oh! but Jesus’ love illumined Every dark and fearful glade. And He came Himself to meet me In that way so hard to tread; And with Jesus’ arm to lean on, Could I have one doubt or dread? Then you must not grieve so sorely, For I love you dearly still: Try to look beyond earth’s shadows, Pray to trust our Father’s Will. There is work still waiting for you, So you must not idly stand; Do it now while life remaineth You shall rest in Jesus’ land. When that work is all completed, He will gently call you Home; Oh, the rapture of that meeting, Oh, the joy to see you come!” - unknown

READER: QUOTE # 32

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/losing/>

“Not lost, but gone before.” - Matthew Henry 1662-1714 English Minister

READER: QUOTE # 33

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

“Grief drives men to serious reflection, sharpens the understanding and softens the heart.” - John Adams 1735-1826, 2nd US President

READER: “Good Grief” #3 By Victor Yap (Excerpt) - Psychology Today d

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=60416&ContributorID=31>

Christians have to come to grip with death. They have to permit the departed to leave, the surviving to grieve, and themselves to live. Wise and reassuring words are not necessary to the grieving; your presence and prayer are usually sought. Crying for the deceased is not a cry for help or attention, but a cry of love and affection. The Bible says, *“Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”* Psalm 30:5.

READER: QUOTE # 34

Source ~ <http://www.worldofquotes.com/topic/Loss/1/index.html>

“Praising what is lost Makes the remembrance dear.” - William Shakespeare

READER: QUOTE # 35

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

“There is no grief which time does not lessen and soften.” - Cicero 106-43 BC Roman orator, statesman, philosopher & writer

READER: QUOTE # 36

Source ~ http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_griefsorrow.html

“The pain passes, but the beauty remains.” - Pierre Auguste Renoir 1841-1919 French Impressionist Painter

READER: QUOTE # 37

Source ~ http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_griefsorrow.html

“In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: it goes on.” - Robert Frost 1874-1963 Famous Poet

READER: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

- 1 *There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven--*
- 2 *A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.*
- 3 *A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to tear down and a time to build up.*
- 4 *A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance.*
- 5 *A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.*
- 6 *A time to search and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep and a time to throw away.*
- 7 *A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak.*
- 8 *A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace.*

READER: QUOTE # 38

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

“Friendship improves happiness, and abates misery, by doubling our joy, and dividing our grief.” - Josheph Addison 1672-1719, English writer, statesman, publisher, essayist & poet

READER: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

9 *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. 10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.*

READER: QUOTE # 39

Source ~ http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_griefsorrow.html

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares. - Henri Nouwen, Author

READER: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3 (Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

READER: “Be Grateful” (Poem) Edgar Albert Guest (1881-1959)

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

“Be grateful for the kindly friends that walk along your way;
Be grateful for the skies of blue that smile from day to day;
Be grateful for the health you own, the work you find to do,
For round about you there are men less fortunate than you.
Be grateful for the growing trees, the roses soon to bloom,
The tenderness of kindly hearts that shared your days of gloom;
Be grateful for the morning dew, the grass beneath your feet,
The soft caresses of your babes and all their laughter sweet.
Acquire the grateful habit, learn to see how blest you are,
How much there is to gladden life, how little life to mar!
And what if rain shall fall today and you with grief are sad;
Be grateful that you can recall the joys that you have had.”

READER: QUOTE # 40

Source ~ <http://www.worldofquotes.com/topic/Loss/1/index.html>

“When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; When health is lost, something is lost; When character is lost, all is lost!”
- Motto over the walls of a school in Germany

READER: “Above The Circumstances” From: Our Daily Bread

Source ~ <http://www.gospelcom.net/rbc/odb/odb-04-11-96.shtml>

Though the fig tree may not blossom, . . . yet I will rejoice in the Lord. - Habakkuk 3:17-18

I remember a story about a woman who was very discouraged because of the many problems in her life. As she was walking down the street, she met a fellow believer who asked, “How are you doing today?”

With a sour look and a bitter shrug she replied, “Oh, not too bad--under the circumstances.”

The other person quickly countered, “Well, get above the circumstances! That’s where Jesus is.”

The prophet Habakkuk was of the same mind. He refused to let circumstances dampen his faith or crush his hope. He looked to the future not with pessimistic fears of what else could go wrong, but with faith in God no matter what would happen. Even if he lost all his possessions, Habakkuk proclaimed that he would continue to trust the Lord to meet his needs (vv.17-19).

Our eyes are to be focused on the Lord, not on our circumstances. We are to live above the shadows of fear and bask in the sunlight of faith. Even though we, like Habakkuk, may have a long list of troubles, faith’s answer to disappointment must always be: “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (v.18). That type of attitude will enable us to live above the circumstances instead of under them. --Henry G. Bosch

As you go along life’s weary road, let Jesus lift your heavy load.

READER: QUOTE # 41

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/grief/>

“Faith draws the poison from every grief, takes the sting from every loss, and quenches the fire of every pain,

and only faith can do it.” - Jeffrey R. Holland 1940- American church leader, PhD at Yale

READER: “Hailed Out” By C. L. Paddock, Signs of the Times

Source ~ http://www.sermonillustrator.org/illustrator/sermon2a/hailed_out.htm

A farmer with a large acreage of beautiful grain was “hailed out” before harvest time. His crop was a total loss. After the hailstorm was over, father and son walked out into the devastated fields. The boy could not keep the tears back, and he expected some violent reaction from his dad. Imagine his surprise when he heard his father begin to sing, “Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.”

That son went out into the world, where he met trials and disappointments himself. Years later, looking back to the time of the hailstorm and his father’s reaction, he said, “That was the most powerful sermon I’ve ever heard.”

READER: Hebrews 5:8-9

“Though he were a Son yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”

READER: 1 John 5:1-5

1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. 5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

READER: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

READER: QUOTE # 42

Source ~ http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_griefsorrow.html

“In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: it goes on.” - Robert Frost 1874-1963
Famous Poet

LEADER: How wonderful...as Christians...our life goes on ...

We can rest in the Lord in whose hand our future is secure on earth and in heaven.

He will solve our every problem in His way, in His time.

And when He’s ready... He’ll solve the greatest one of all as we are delivered from life unto life everlasting.

READER: Philippians 4:6-8

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

READER: “If”

Source ~ <http://www.sermonillustrator.org/illustrator/sermon1/if.htm>

If you never felt pain,
Then how would you know that I’m a Healer?
If you never went through difficulties,
How would you know that I’m a Deliverer?
If you never had a trial,
How could you call yourself an overcomer?
If you never felt sadness,

How would you know that I'm a Comforter?
If you never made a mistake,
How would you know that I'm forgiving?
If you knew all,
How would you know that I will answer your questions?
If you never were in trouble,
How would you know that I will come to your rescue?
If you never were broken,
Then how would know that I can make you whole?
If you never had a problem,
How would you know that I can solve them?
If you never had any suffering,
Then how would you know what Jesus went through?
If you never went through the fire,
then how would you become pure?
If I gave you all things,
How would you appreciate them?
If I never corrected you,
How would you know that I love you?
If you had all power,
Then how would you learn to depend on me?
If your life was perfect,
Then what would you need Me for?

LEADER: How do we deal with loss? (ASK ONLY IF TIME)
(ANY ANSWER TAKEN FROM THE LESSON IS GOOD)

1. Lesson from Abraham Lincoln – NEVER GIVE UP.
2. Love and Relationships – THE 2 GREATEST COMMANDMENTS
3. What about loss of youth? –
4. Loss of Time? THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE...LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.
5. Dreams? THE LORD HAS PLANS FOR YOU
6. Spiritual liberties? MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD
7. Death of a loved one: TEARS, SUPPORT, PRAYER

LEADER: THIS BEARS REPEATING:

READER: QUOTE # 43

Source ~ <http://www.worldofquotes.com/topic/Loss/1/index.html>

“Oh, my friend, it's not what they take away from you that counts. It's what you do with what you have left.” - William Cowper 1731-1800 Lawyer/Author/Hymn Writer, Collaborated with John Newton, author of Amazing Grace

READER: QUOTE # 44

Source ~ <http://www.worldofquotes.com/topic/Loss/1/index.html>

“For when the One Great Scorer comes To write against your name, He marks—not that you won or lost— But how you played the game.” - Henry Grantland Rice 1880-1954 US Sports Columnist

READER: Romans 15:13

13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

READER: Proverbs 15:8

The prayer of the upright is His delight.

LEADER: When we look at the prayer requests each week...

- Yes they are full of concerns and losses...
- But remember to look at the love...and the miracles and praises that follow.
- *"We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us."* - Philippians 4:13
- *"The prayers of the righteous avail much."* - James 5:16
- *"He makes all things happen together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose."* - Romans 8:28

COMMENTS IF TIME:

STOP TEN MINUTES BEFORE CLOSING FOR:

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES:

COPY AND DISTRIBUTE THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO YOUR READERS:

READERS

QUOTE # 1

“Oh, my friend, it’s not what they take away from you that counts. It’s what you do with what you have left.” - William Cowper 1731-1800 Lawyer/Author/Hymn Writer, Collaborated with John Newton, author of Amazing Grace

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QUOTE #2

“Trials, temptations, disappointments -- all these are helps instead of hindrances, if one uses them rightly. They not only test the fiber of character but strengthen it. Every conquering temptation represents a new fund of moral energy. Every trial endured and weathered in the right spirit makes a soul nobler and stronger than it was before.” - James Buckman 1818-1884 chemist, college professor, museum curator, geologist, archaeologist, author, farmer

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“When A Tree’s Life Is Threatened”

In her book *First We Quit Our Jobs*, Marilyn J. Abraham writes: “We signed up for a hike with a ranger, who told us a remarkable thing: when a tree’s life is threatened, stressed by the elements of fire, drought, or other calamity, it twists beneath its bark to reinforce and make itself stronger. On the surface, this new inner strength may not be visible, for the bark often continues to give the same vertical appearance. Only when the exterior is stripped away, or when the tree is felled, are its inner struggles revealed.” God can use our grief to strengthen us in ways that are not visible to the world.

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QUOTE #3

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” - Martin Luther King Jr. 1929-1968, Nobel Prize Winner, 1964

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QUOTE #4

“The greatest test of courage on earth is to bear defeat without losing heart.” - Robert Ingersoll 1833-1899 Philosopher/Lawyer/Orator

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QUOTE #5

“Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though it is hard to realize this. For the world was built to develop character, and we must learn that the setbacks and griefs which we endure help us in our marching onward.” - Henry Ford 1863-1947 Automobile Manufacturer

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QUOTE #6

“When all else is lost, the future still remains.” - Christian Bovee 1820- 1904 American Writer/Editor

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QUOTE #7

“When walking through the ‘valley of shadows,’ remember, a shadow is cast by a Light.” - H.K. Barclay

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QUOTE #8

“Gray skies are just clouds passing over.” - Duke Ellington, American jazz musician

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QUOTE #9

“Every silver lining has a cloud.” - Avon

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QUOTE #10

“Tis better to have loved and lost than never loved at all.” - Lord Alfred Tennyson 1809-1892 Most famous poet of the Victorian age.

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QUOTE #11

“By friendship you mean the greatest love, the greatest usefulness, the most open communication, the noblest sufferings, the severest truth, the heartiest counsel, and the greatest union of minds which brave men and women are capable.” - Jeremy Taylor 1613-1667 English bishop & theological & devotional writer

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2 Corinthians 4:8

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QUOTE # 12

“You may delay, but time will not, and lost time is never found again.” - Benjamin Franklin 1706- 1790 Entrepreneur, statesman, scientist & philosopher

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QUOTE # 13

“He lives long that lives well, and time misspent is not lived, but lost.” - Thomas Fuller 1608-1661 English clergyman, antiquarian, wit, historian

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“Your Bank Account”

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!!!! Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day’s deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the “tomorrow”. You must live in the present on today’s deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

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QUOTE # 14

“Lost, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, sixty golden minutes. Each set with sixty diamond seconds. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever.” - Horace Mann 1796-1859 American educator

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Psalms 118:24

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QUOTE # 15

“The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm.” - Aldous Huxley 1894-1961 English writer & critic

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QUOTE #16

“The quality, not the longevity, of one’s life is what is important.” - Martin Luther King Jr. 1929-1968, American Black Leader, Nobel Prize Winner, 1964

QUOTE #17

“When I was young I was amazed at Plutarch’s statement that the elder Cato began at the age of eighty to learn Greek. I am amazed no longer. Old age is ready to undertake tasks that youth shirked because they would take too long.” - W. Somerset Maugham 1874-1965, British Novelist, Playwright

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QUOTE #18

“You can’t help getting older, but you don’t have to get old.” - George Burns 1896-1996, American Comedy Actor

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QUOTE #19

“To keep the heart un wrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent that is to triumph over old age.” - Thomas B. Aldrich 1836-1907, American Writer, Editor

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2 Corinthians 4:16

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Isaiah 46:4

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James 5: 13-16

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QUOTE # 20

“A great deal of talent is lost to the world for want of a little courage. Every day sends to their graves obscure men whom timidity prevented from making a first effort.” - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 1749-1832 German philosopher, scientist & writer

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QUOTE # 21

“If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost, that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.” - Henry David Thoreau 1817-1862 American philosopher & naturalist, writer of Walden

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Jeremiah 29:11-12

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QUOTE # 22

“What I spent, is gone; what I kept, I lost; but what I gave away will be mine forever.” - Ethel Percy Andrus 1884-1967 Educator founded, American Ass’n of Retired Persons & Nat’l Retired Teachers Ass’n

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QUOTE # 23

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.” - Martin Luther 1483-1546 German Reformation leader

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QUOTE # 24

“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.” - Saint Basil the Great 329-379 Greek Patriarch/ Church Leader

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Philippians 2:1-4

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Matthew 22:36-40

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QUOTE #25

“All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” - Edmund Burke 1729-1797 British Statesman/philosopher/Author

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Exodus 18:21

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Song of Solomon 8:13

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QUOTE # 26

“Dear Madam, —I have been shown in the files of the War Department a Statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom. Yours, very sincerely and respectfully, President Abraham Lincoln” - Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865 16th US President. From Letter to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, Nov. 21, 1864. (Later corrected: only 2 sons died.)

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John 15:13

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“Good Grief” #1

Charlie Brown, from the popular Peanuts comic strip, blurts out two words whenever he is stuck, trapped, or frustrated. His favorite expression is “Good grief!”

Death or bereavement in the family is a hurting, devastating, and overwhelming affair. Recovering from the loss of a loved one or family member is a slow, painful, and lengthy process. Researchers from the Medical College of Virginia, in a study reported in Psychology Today, concluded that the death of a close relative is the single biggest contributor to depression. A serious illness would increase a person’s risk of depression by 330%, divorce/breakup raises it to an unhealthy 1,130%, serious marital problem and assault pushes risk to an alarming 1,400%, but the risk of depression soars to a dangerous 1,500% in the death of a close relative.

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1 Thessalonians 4:13

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“Crippled Daughter”

A miserable looking woman recognized F. B. Meyer on the train and ventured to share her burden with him. For years she had cared for a crippled daughter who brought great joy to her life. She made tea for her each morning, then left for work, knowing that in the evening the daughter would be there when she arrived home. But the daughter had died, and the grieving mother was alone and miserable. Home was not “home” anymore.

Meyer gave her wise counsel. “When you get home and put the key in the door,” he said, “say aloud, ‘Jesus, I know You are here!’ and be ready to greet Him directly when you open the door. And as you light the fire tell Him what has happened during the day; if anybody has been kind, tell Him; if anybody has been unkind, tell Him, just as you would have told your daughter. At night stretch out your hand in the darkness and say, ‘Jesus, I know You are here!’”

Some months later, Meyer was back in that neighborhood and met the woman again, but he did not recognize her. Her face radiated joy instead of announcing misery. "I did as you told me," she said, "and it has made all the difference in my life, and now I feel I know Him."

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QUOTE # 27

"The happiest, sweetest, tenderest homes are not those where there has been no sorrow, but those which have been overshadowed with grief, and where Christ's comfort was accepted. The very memory of the sorrow is a gentle benediction that broods ever over the household, like the silence that comes after prayer. There is a blessing sent from God in every burden of sorrow." - James Russell Miller 1840-1912), US Presbyterian clergyman, author of many devotional books

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Galatians 6:2

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"Reflections: Suffering and Grief"

To regard grief as somehow unworthy of a Christian who believes in the resurrection is to forget the example of Christ who was so often "moved with compassion," who wept at his loss of Lazarus and prayed the longer in his agony. We cannot short-circuit human processes; we have to give the experience time to come home to us before it can become a motive for hope and a promise of fuller life . . . Grief is only unchristian if it is wholly self-centered or if we never emerge from it.

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Matthew 5:4

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Psalm 34:18

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"Dear Abby"

"Dear Abby gives this advice on how to respond to those who are grieving: How one handles grief is a personal matter. Let the one who has suffered the loss take the lead. If he feels like talking, encourage him to talk. If he prefers to sit in silence, don't intrude on his silence. Friends should call, bring food, offer to run errands, and do what needs to be done. A hug, a squeeze of the hand, a look which says, I'm here, if you need me," conveys more than a thousand words."

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"Good Grief" #2

Grief hardly qualifies as being good, but grieving is good. The loss of a loved one, while it triggers a grave crisis in the home, is not the end of the world for surviving family members. How is grieving good?

Tears help put a person pull together, and not reduce him or her into pieces. Crying is often healthy. It is crucial to and part and parcel of the recovery process. It frees grieving people, and not cripple or shackle them. They get back on their feet quicker, get things off their chest sooner, and get on with their life faster after a good cry. The Bible does not discourage people from crying; 1 Thessalonians 4:13 says do not grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. Romans 12:15 even encourages believers to weep with those who weep. Jesus did not hold back his tears on two occasions, once over Lazarus and another over the city of Jerusalem.

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QUOTE #28

"The principle is simple: when words are most empty, tears are most apt." - Max Lucado – Christian Author
From: "No Wonder They Call Him the Savior"

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QUOTE # 29

"Tears are the silent language of grief." - Voltaire 1694-1778 French poet, historian & satirist

QUOTE # 30

“To weep is to make less the depth of grief.” - William Shakespeare 1564-1616 English Poet from King Henry VI, Part III, Act II

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QUOTE # 31

“I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and so bright! There is perfect joy and beauty In this everlasting light. All the pain and grief is over, Every restless tossing passed; I am now at peace forever, Safely home in Heaven at last. Did you wonder I so calmly Trod the valley of the shade? Oh! but Jesus’ love illumined Every dark and fearful glade. And He came Himself to meet me In that way so hard to tread; And with Jesus’ arm to lean on, Could I have one doubt or dread? Then you must not grieve so sorely, For I love you dearly still: Try to look beyond earth’s shadows, Pray to trust our Father’s Will. There is work still waiting for you, So you must not idly stand; Do it now while life remaineth You shall rest in Jesus’ land. When that work is all completed, He will gently call you Home; Oh, the rapture of that meeting, Oh, the joy to see you come!” - unknown

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QUOTE # 32

“Not lost, but gone before.” - Matthew Henry 1662-1714 English Minister

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QUOTE # 33

“Grief drives men to serious reflection, sharpens the understanding and softens the heart.” - John Adams 1735-1826 2nd US President

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“Good Grief” #3

Christians have to come to grip with death. They have to permit the departed to leave, the surviving to grieve, and themselves to live. Wise and reassuring words are not necessary to the grieving; your presence and prayer are usually sought. Crying for the deceased is not a cry for help or attention, but a cry of love and affection. The Bible says, *“Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”* Psalm 30:5

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QUOTE # 34

“Praising what is lost Makes the remembrance dear.” - William Shakespeare

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QUOTE # 35

“There is no grief which time does not lessen and soften.” - Cicero 106-43 BC Roman orator, statesman, philosopher & writer

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QUOTE # 36

“The pain passes, but the beauty remains.” - Pierre Auguste Renoir 1841-1919 French Impressionist Painter

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QUOTE # 37

“In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: it goes on.” - Robert Frost 1874-1963 Famous Poet

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Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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QUOTE # 38

“Friendship improves happiness, and abates misery, by doubling our joy, and dividing our grief.” - Josheph Addison 1672-1719 English writer, statesman, publisher, essayist & poet

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Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

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QUOTE # 39

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares. - Henri Nouwen, Author

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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“Be Grateful” Edgar Albert Guest

“Be grateful for the kindly friends that walk along your way;
Be grateful for the skies of blue that smile from day to day;
Be grateful for the health you own, the work you find to do,
For round about you there are men less fortunate than you.
Be grateful for the growing trees, the roses soon to bloom,
The tenderness of kindly hearts that shared your days of gloom;
Be grateful for the morning dew, the grass beneath your feet,
The soft caresses of your babes and all their laughter sweet.
Acquire the grateful habit, learn to see how blest you are,
How much there is to gladden life, how little life to mar!
And what if rain shall fall today and you with grief are sad;
Be grateful that you can recall the joys that you have had.”

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QUOTE # 40

“When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; When health is lost, something is lost; When character is lost, all is lost!” - Motto over the walls of a school in Germany

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“Above The Circumstances”

Though the fig tree may not blossom, . . . yet I will rejoice in the Lord. . - Habakkuk 3:17-18

I remember a story about a woman who was very discouraged because of the many problems in her life. As she was walking down the street, she met a fellow believer who asked, “How are you doing today?”

With a sour look and a bitter shrug she replied, “Oh, not too bad--under the circumstances.”

The other person quickly countered, “Well, get above the circumstances! That’s where Jesus is.”

The prophet Habakkuk was of the same mind. He refused to let circumstances dampen his faith or crush his hope. He looked to the future not with pessimistic fears of what else could go wrong, but with faith in God no matter what would happen. Even if he lost all his possessions, Habakkuk proclaimed that he would continue to trust the Lord to meet his needs (vv.17-19).

Our eyes are to be focused on the Lord, not on our circumstances. We are to live above the shadows of fear and bask in the sunlight of faith. Even though we, like Habakkuk, may have a long list of troubles, faith’s answer to disappointment must always be: “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (v.18). That type of attitude will enable us to live above the circumstances instead of under them. -- Henry G.

Bosch

As you go along life's weary road,
let Jesus lift your heavy load.

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QUOTE # 41

"Faith draws the poison from every grief, takes the sting from every loss, and quenches the fire of every pain, and only faith can do it." - Jeffrey R. Holland 1940- American church leader, PhD at Yale

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"Hailed Out"

A farmer with a large acreage of beautiful grain was "hailed out" before harvest time. His crop was a total loss. After the hailstorm was over, father and son walked out into the devastated fields. The boy could not keep the tears back, and he expected some violent reaction from his dad. Imagine his surprise when he heard his father begin to sing, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee."

That son went out into the world, where he met trials and disappointments himself. Years later, looking back to the time of the hailstorm and his father's reaction, he said, "That was the most powerful sermon I've ever heard."

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Hebrews 5:8-9

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1 John 5:1-5

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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QUOTE # 42

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." - Robert Frost 1874-1963
Famous Poet

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Philippians 4:6-8

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"If"

If you never felt pain,
Then how would you know that I'm a Healer?
If you never went through difficulties,
How would you know that I'm a Deliverer?
If you never had a trial,
How could you call yourself an overcomer?
If you never felt sadness,
How would you know that I'm a Comforter?
If you never made a mistake,
How would you know that I'm forgiving?
If you knew all,
How would you know that I will answer your questions?
If you never were in trouble,
How would you know that I will come to your rescue?
If you never were broken,
Then how would know that I can make you whole?
If you never had a problem,
How would you know that I can solve them?
If you never had any suffering,

Then how would you know what Jesus went through?
If you never went through the fire,
then how would you become pure?
If I gave you all things,
How would you appreciate them?
If I never corrected you,
How would you know that I love you?
If you had all power,
Then how would you learn to depend on me?
If your life was perfect,
Then what would you need Me for?

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QUOTE # 43

“Oh, my friend, it’s not what they take away from you that counts. It’s what you do with what you have left.” - William Cowper 1731-1800 Lawyer/Author/Hymn Writer, Collaborated with John Newton author of Amazing Grace

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QUOTE # 44

“For when the One Great Scorer comes To write against your name, He marks—not that you won or lost— But how you played the game.” - Henry Grantland Rice 1880-1954 US Sports Columnist

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Romans 15:13

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Proverbs 15:8