

It is well with my soul – and how do we get there?

When we lose someone to death or illness, we need to remind ourselves often of the persons about whom we are thinking and this song, if no other, to remind us that Jesus knows and He cares.

Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Death and Grief

Joh 11:18-21 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; (19) and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. (20) Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him; but Mary still sat in the house. (21) Martha therefore said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

Joh 11:35 Jesus wept.

Did Jesus weep because Lazarus died?

No, Jesus knew Lazarus would meet them in
eternity.

Joh 11:23-25 Jesus said to her, "Your brother shall
rise again." (24) Martha said to Him, "I know that
he will rise again in the resurrection on the last
day." (25) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection
and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if
he dies,

Joh 11:25-27 Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (27) She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

Jesus had spent a lot of time talking with Martha earlier, but Jesus is moved at Mary's grief – her lack of faith in Jesus as the "resurrection and the life" and Jesus weeps.

Only a few days later, we find Jesus is concerned that His disciples had not understood His teaching.

Joh 14:8-9 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." (9) Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Joh 11:30-35 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him. (31) The Jews then who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. (32) Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." (33) When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her, also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit, and was troubled, (34) and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." (35) Jesus wept.

We often have the same problem Mary had – little faith in the resurrection.

People who have lost a loved one want to talk about the one who is dead [away from them at the time].

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed ...

Each first day of the week, we come together to
remember our Lord.

He commanded this through His apostle's writings.

Mat 26:29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this
fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I
drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

He is here with us as we remember Him.

1Co 11:27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.

So also, our loved ones spring to life as we remember them – especially if we look forward to being with them again.

People who are coping with the death of a relative or close friend are still in a relationship with that person.

Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?"
(14) I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Rev 7:17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne
will be their shepherd, and will guide them to
springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every
tear from their eyes."

Rev 21:2-4 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, (4) and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

People who are experiencing grief
need to understand their grief is an expression
of love.

Joh 11:36 So the Jews were saying, "See how He
loved him!"

Our grief is tempered only by our perception of the
life our loved one lived and how closely they walked
with God.

People who are experiencing grief should realize that grief is not a “one size fits all” proposition. That is, people grieve in different ways.

Martha ran out to meet Jesus while Mary remained in her house (John 11:20). All people experience grief in different and unique sorts of ways.

Act 9:37-38 And it happened at that time that she [Dorcas] fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.

(38) Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, "Do not delay in coming to us."

39 So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

Some had immense faith in the power of God, others mourned her passing. We need to be fully convinced, like Martha, that we will see our faithful loved ones in the resurrection.

Php 1:23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; (24) yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Those going through bereavement need to know
that there is no expiration date to their grief.

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and
drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until
He comes.

There is no time that when we think of the Lord
and that we do not want to see Him.

“That dreadful night before his death, the Lamb for
sinners slain.”

Those going through bereavement need to know that
God understands death and loss.

Jehovah God experienced the death of His own Son

Heb 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little
while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because
of the suffering of death crowned with glory and
honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste
death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for
whom are all things, and through whom are all things,
in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author
of their salvation through sufferings.

Those going through bereavement need to understand that grief, anger, and depression are not indicative of faithlessness, but of a need for greater understanding and comfort from the Scriptures.

But we must also understand that by strengthening our faith in Him, we may realize that we have hope, that one day we will be reunited with our loved ones.

This is especially true of those who have lost children.

There is no such thing as original sin which stains a child!

Eze 18:20 "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

Deu 1:39 'Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them and they shall possess it.

Eph 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Gen 3:5-7 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (6) When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. (7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Those who are suffering with the death of a loved one need to understand that it is okay to ask
“why?”

By implication, Christians are asking God why this has happened to them. Job asked this question.

Job 3:11-13 "Why did I not die at birth, Come forth from the womb and expire? (12) "Why did the knees receive me, And why the breasts, that I should suck? (13) "For now I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept then, I would have been at rest,

We may not believe the answer when we find God telling us we can understand, when others whom we think may have a deeper faith are not tempted as we are.

1Co 10:12-13 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. (13) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

God knows what lies within us and calls on us to
persevere.

Rev 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer.
Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into
prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have
tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and
I will give you the crown of life.

“Tempted and tried, we’re oft made to wonder why
it should be thus all the day long”

Instead of going through “stages” of grief, we may go through “waves” of grief which toss us as the “sea billows roll.”

When we share our grief experiences, we enable others to experience a degree of comfort in mediating their bereavement.

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Our greatest concern as we look upon each other is for our continued faithfulness that we might see one another in glory.

And beyond that, we know that there are some present who have not put on the Lord Jesus Christ. We want you to think this day about where you will be if you die and you are not in Christ.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.