



# WEEKLY SERMON

Volume No. 2023 Issue No. 3  
January 22, 2023

**Sunday** January 22, 2023  
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**Message:** The Family of God - #2

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**Text:** Psalm 34:19; Isaiah 61:1

We live in an evil, uncertain, hard world. Who doesn't face personal uncertainty? You lose a job or retire. Your home needs maintenance. Where's the money going to come from? You face some uncertain physical problems. If you have children or grandchildren, as I do, you always carry each of them in your heart. So how do we manage the fear of the future? How can we find hope in God?

Here are **FOUR** more incredible promises to give us hope for the future, both in this life and especially the next.

**SEVENTH: Hope In God Because He Will Lead You.** Psalm 32:8, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." God himself, the One who controls all things, the God of infinite wisdom, will **PERSONALLY** counsel you with his eye upon you. Wow, who could hope for more than that!

Ask God to instruct you and teach you and show you how to live a life that pleases him, and he will. He will lead you in the way to go. He will instruct you, teach you, guide you, and counsel you. Even though the way forward may seem unclear at the moment, God will be the one who leads you. You can hope in God because he is faithful and will lead you and instruct you.

**EIGHTH: Hope In God Because Your Path Grows Brighter Each Day.** In Proverbs 4:18 we read, "The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge." Maybe your path is dark right now, but if you keep seeking the Lord, he will make your path brighter and brighter. When Jesus first saved me, I was single and had no idea what I wanted to do in life.

I had no idea God would give me the most wonderful wife or call me to be a pastor. Couldn't have imagined the children, grandchildren or the great-grandchildren he would bless us with. But as I sought to follow Jesus, he lit my path. If you believe in Jesus, your future is bright. Your path will shine brighter and brighter until the full day when Jesus returns. Hope in God because he has promised a bright future for you.

**NINTH: Hope In God Because You Are His Workmanship.** Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Whenever I'm tempted to think I might miss God's will for my life, this verse reminds me that he created good works for me to walk before he created the universe. Before he saved me. He desires me to walk in these

works even more than I do. He has prepared them already and will make sure I don't miss them.

Do you believe that God has prepared good works for you to walk in? He most certainly has, and he will guide you into those good works. You are his workmanship, and every day he is making you more and more like Jesus Christ. Nothing can stop him from completing that work. You can hope in God because you are his workmanship.

**TENTH: Hope In God Because All Things Work Together For Good.** Romans 8:28, **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”** Every believer suffers various kinds of trials. Life's not easy. But God works even the sad, hard, and painful things together for our good. And you have a hope that someday in heaven you'll see how your momentary light afflictions produced an eternal weight of glory far beyond comparison.

Here are more wonderful Bible verses about hope to encourage and strengthen you:

2 Corinthians 3:12-14 - **“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.”**

Psalm 146:5 - **“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God...”**

Psalm 42:11 - **“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? Why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.**

Titus 1:1-2 - **“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began...”**

1 Thessalonians 1:3 - **“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father...”**

1 Peter 1:13 - **“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ...”**

So don't give up **HOPE. Trust In God's Unfailing Love!** Keep asking God to pour out his abundant goodness on you. Keep asking him to guide, instruct, and show you the way you should go. Keep looking for his goodness. Keep hoping in the living God. I believe you will see God's goodness in this life and a millionfold in heaven. Your hope for the future isn't based on you. It's based on who God is and what he has promised.

In His Amazing Grace  
*Pastor David Miklas*

# How to Treat the Brokenhearted in the Family of God

**INTRODUCTION:** In Isaiah 61:1 we read, "The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to open the prison to them that are bound..." Here we have a prophetic text about the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice that phrase, "he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted..." One of the purposes for Jesus coming into this world was to help heal the "brokenhearted."

One of the purposes of the church is to minister to the brokenhearted. Someone has said, "**Behind every face there is a broken heart, and behind every smile there is a reason to cry.**" Even in this church on Sunday morning and Sunday evening and even on Wednesday evening, broken hearts come and occupy these pews. Hearts are:

**Broken because of health problems,  
Broken because of wayward children,  
Broken because of the death of a loved one,  
Broken over family problems,  
Broken over business failures,  
Broken over sin that has come into their lives, and  
For a multitude of other reasons, hearts have and will continue to be broken.**

It is into this arena which we, the people of God, are called. We ought to **REACH OUT** to those who are brokenhearted, in love, in understanding, and by showing with words and actions that we care. Here is where we can put into practice Paul's admonitions given to us:

In Romans 12:15 where we are to, "**Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.**"

In I Corinthians 12:26 where we read, "**and wither one member suffers, all the members suffer with them...**"

Briefly in this message, I want to call your attention to **TWO** areas, so that we may understand why and how we are to care for the brokenhearted.

**First: "Why does God allow us to suffer heartbreak?"**

**Second: "How should we treat the heartbroken in the church?"**

**FIRST: Why does God allow us to suffering?** In answer to this question, the Bible does not give an all-inclusive, single answer to the problem of suffering. But we can say with absolute confidence, that whatever God does is **RIGHT**, and whatever God does is **JUST**.

In Psalms 145:17 we read, "**The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and Holy in all His works.**"

In Psalms 34:19 we are told, "**Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of the all.**"

Yet we still have the natural tendency to ask **GOD, "WHY?"** It isn't the normal demands of life that **BREAK** us. It is **THE PAINFUL SURPRISES**. We find ourselves fighting battles with **PAIN, TRAGEDY, and AFFLICTION** we did not cause, and carrying burdens for reasons we do not understand.

When life hands us these painful surprises, our normal response is to ask, "**WHY ME; WHY US?**" I need to confess as you do, we do not have all the answers. However, I would suggest there are several things clearly taught in God's Word that we can understand.

**Number 1: There are afflictions, which we may easily understand.** There is **PAIN, TRAGEDY and AFFLICTION**, which comes into our lives, for which there are not a lot of questions, because we can understand **WHY**.

**Number 2: There are afflictions, which may be eventually understood.** Some of these come into our lives, and at first there is no explanation. We can't comprehend **WHY**, but eventually the answer will be revealed. Maybe the explanation will come in a matter of days or weeks, or perhaps in a few years.

**Number 3: There are afflictions which enter into our lives which are only providentially understood.** There will be absolutely no answer apart from the sovereignty of God, and only eternity will give us the answer **WHY**.

Whether we understand God's reasons immediately or eventually or not until eternity, we should always be looking for the lessons God is teaching us in those afflictions.

Let me give you **NINE** scriptural reasons "**why God allows suffering in our lives.**" There are more, but these speak to the brokenhearted among us:

**First: Suffering is designed to fashion in us the character of patience.** The central challenge in our lives is not to actually **EXPLAIN SUFFERING**. Rather we ought to be the kind of people who can face suffering and make **IT WORK FOR US AND NOT AGAINST US**.

Now the process by which God builds this quality into our lives is outlined in Romans 5:1-5 where we read, "**Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**"

Suffering is a way for God to build into our lives **PATIENCE**. Notice the words used here.

**Tribulation:** The Greek word means "**pressures.**" This word was used to describe the crushing of the grapes in the press. It takes **TRIALS** to make something beautiful and useful out of the raw material of life.

**Patience:** This word means "**the ability to stay with it and not fall apart.**" We know it as endurance. This is the "Don't Quit" character of life.

**Experience:** A better word to be used here would be "**character.**" There is a sense of suffering that reveals what we are made of. Trials produce endurance and endurance in turn produces character. Job said it this way in Job 23:10, "**But He knoweth the way that I take; when he hath tried me, I SHALL COME FORTH AS GOLD.**"

Notice that character produces hope. This is **CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE**. If we have proved the faithfulness of God during the afflictions of life, **THEN WE KNOW GOD CAN HANDLE WHATEVER MAY LIE AHEAD**.

**Second: Suffering is designed to discipline and correct the believer.** In Hebrews 12:5-6 we read, "... **My son despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourageth every son whom he receiveth.**" There are times when,

**We do the wrong thing,  
We say the wrong thing, or  
We go off in the wrong direction.**

When God sees us headed in a direction that will:

**DESTROY** our testimony,  
**CAUSE** us to miss out on His blessings, and  
**LEAD**, ultimately, to spiritual death,

He **LOVINGLY** allows problems to bring us back to where He wants us. In Psalm 119: 65-67 we read, “Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments. Before I **WAS AFFLICTED** I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.”

Permit me to aid you in understanding verse 67 by arranging it this way: "**When I went astray, when I backslid, it was then I was afflicted, now I am keeping close to thy word.**"

What is the point? When you or I get out of fellowship with God, many times God brings **PHYSICAL AFFLICTION** into our lives, and the purpose of that **PHYSICAL AFFLICTION** is to bring us back into fellowship with God. Notice again verse 67, “Before I **WAS AFFLICTED** I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.”

Now follow me in Psalm 119:71, “**It is good for me that I HAVE BEEN AFFLICTED that I might learn thy statutes.**” David is saying, **If I hadn't been afflicted, I still would be backslidden, I still would be drifting farther and farther away from God. However, Praise God, He cared enough for me to bring me back and he used affliction to do so.**

From Psalm 119:75 we read, “**I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness HAST AFFLICTED ME.**” Again my point is, **God often uses PHYSICAL AFFLICTION to draw us back unto Himself, when we drift away from the Lord.**

During this service, perhaps you are sitting here as a child of God, yet **YOU KNOW** you are either out of the will of God or you are out of fellowship with God. You know you are not what God wants you to be. Then, my friend:

**You should expect affliction in your life.**

**You should expect some sickness or suffering in your life.**

**You should, according to Hebrews 12, expect perhaps some kind of chastisement in your life.**

**Third: Suffering provides us with an opportunity to witness to lost people.** In writing about his time in prison for the sake of the gospel, Paul in Philippians 1:12-17 tells us, “**But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.**” Paul is saying, “**Even though I have been in prison, the gospel of Jesus Christ is still going forward.**”

When everything is going fine in our lives, the next door neighbors do not notice that something is **DIFFERENT** about us.

When we have a nervous breakdown and fall apart in time of difficulty, we are still no different from our unsaved neighbors.

In I Peter 3:15 we read, “**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the HOPE that is in you with meekness and fear:**” This verse is teaching us that **in the midst of our ADVERSITY and SUFFERING, when those around us sense that we have in our lives**

**PEACE, JOY, COURAGE, and FAITH that they do not have, along with a SINCERE COMMITMENT and LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST IN OUR LIVES,**

they will now begin to ask us about the **HOPE** that's in us. We will **NOW** have an opportunity to tell them about Jesus Christ.

**Fourth: Suffering comes in order to develop the believer's ability to minister to others who suffer.** From II Corinthians 1:3-4 we read, “**Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.**” What a blessed promise from God. As He ministers to us in our need, through that same encouragement or comfort, we can then minister to others in their time of need.

Sometimes the only reason for that trial or problem in your life is to prepare you to be able to minister to someone else. Think about that. What a privilege to be a special minister of God, sent to minister to another in need, just like we were at one time in that same need.

**Fifth: Suffering comes into our lives to remove cause for boasting and self-reliance.** In II Corinthians 12:7 After having a death experience and seeing heaven, the Apostle Paul tells us, “**And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.**” Sometimes God allows problems in our lives to **KEEP US HUMBLE**. He wants to remind us that we need to be dependent upon Him. God has to remind us that in Him we **LIVE** and **MOVE** and have our **BEING**, that

**Our lives, families, jobs, abilities, and our physical health comes from God.**

Is it amazing how with:

**One PHONE CALL,  
One X-RAY,  
One VISIT TO THE DOCTOR,**

God can **REMIN**D us that **HE IS IN CHARGE**. Then suddenly we again recognize our dependence upon Him.

**Sixth: Suffering comes into our lives in order to purify our faith.** We learn of this from I Peter 1:6-7, “**Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**” Sometimes God will **PLACE** us in **CIRCUMSTANCES** where it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to trust:

**in the arm of flesh,  
in the latest medical advances, or  
in the tangible things around us.**

The only thing we can do is **PRAY** and **TRUST** Him. It is through these times that our faith is purified.

**Seventh: Suffering comes into our lives to draw the believer closer to God.** This brings to mind a passage in Job 42:1-5 where we read, “**Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.**” Notice again verse 5, “**I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.**” Job is saying, “**Before I went through all of my difficulties, I had heard secondhand what a wonderful God you are. But now that I have been through some problems, YOUR WONDER IS NO LONGER HEARSAY, IT IS FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE.**”

Unless we ourselves go through the storm, we might **NEVER KNOW** the power of God,

that there is nothing too hard for Him.

**Eighth: Suffering comes into our lives to illustrate the value of the Body of Christ.**

You may remember the passage in I Corinthians 12:23-26 in which the Apostle Paul illustrates the functioning church as the body, "And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." Here is where the importance of the church family surfaces. Sometimes God allows suffering because it causes the church of Jesus Christ to **MOVE into ACTION in PRAYING and CARING** for the sick and suffering members of the body of Christ.

**Ninth: Suffering occurs in our lives to motivate the believer to cry out to God.** The psalmist tells us in Psalm 34:6-7, "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

When we are really hurting, we get down to praying. When there is a need that is beyond our control, our prayers take on a newfound urgency.

Therefore, God allows those problems to motivate us to cry out to Him

From the time we are born until the time God calls us home, there are **TRAGEDIES** and **DARK EXPERIENCES** all the way. Someone said,

"For every good day in life, an honest believer will tell you there are two bad ones. Learning to live successfully is learning how to live in the valley. We will spend a great deal more time in the **VALLEY** than we will on the **MOUNTAINTOP**. Once in a while, the Lord will take us into some special oasis, designed to refurbish and refuel us and equip us for the difficulties that lie ahead. But according to Job 14:1, in this life and until we get to heaven, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble."

So we need to learn how to live from one tragedy to the next. From one burdensome experience to the next, He will meet the need in each hour of crisis as we realize that God's **GRACE** is bigger than anything that can happen to us.

Nothing we must face today, or will face in the tomorrow's ahead, will be a surprise to our heavenly Father. **HE PLANNED IT FOR US, AND HE WILL SEE US THROUGH IT.**

Our **RESPONSIBILITY** is to **CHOOSE** to become **BETTER**, not **BITTER**. The key is not the hurt or the pain, but how we respond to the hurt and the pain. God intends to **CULTIVATE** our lives through adversity.

**SECOND: How should we respond to the Brokenhearted?** In light of what we have just discussed, how should you and I respond to those who have experienced and are experiencing heartbreak? Here are **FOUR** practical ways we can meet this need.

**1. Act as NORMAL as possible.** People just need to know you care. Look, you may not be able to do anything for them. Maybe all you can do is speak a word or pray with them. **JUST LET THEM KNOW THAT NOTHING HAS CHANGED.** In spite of their problem, you are still with them.

**2. It is usually best NOT to mention their problem.** The reason behind this is discussion of the problem may open up a fresh wound unnecessarily.

**3. Do not try to figure out WHY.** It is so easy for God's people to become an Eliphaz, a Zophar or a Bildad, who were "friends" of Job.

One fellow came and said, "**Job, I know why you are having troubles; you are not spiritual enough!**"

Another came and said, "**Job, I know why you are having your troubles; you have left the traditions of the fathers!**"

Another came and said, "**Job, I know why you are having your trouble; you have sinned and you are being punished.**"

Folks, as we have seen, the truth is that **NONE** of us **KNOWS WHY** God does what He does. **IT IS NOT OUR JOB TO FIGURE OUT WHY:**

**It is our job to be LOVING.**

**It is our job to be THOUGHTFUL, and**

**It is our job to be HELPFUL when our brothers and sisters have broken hearts.**

**4. Use unsaid WORDS to express sympathy.** Perhaps all that is needed, and all that is necessary is:

**a simple gift,  
an attractive card,  
a squeeze of the hand,  
a pat on the back or  
a touch of the elbow.**

These things say, I Love you, and I am your friend, even though I might not understand your hurt.

Heartbreak comes to everybody, in every walk of life and on every scale of spiritual growth and progress. Therefore, let us be a church that reaches out with compassion and tenderness.

In closing, let me speak a word to the brokenhearted. When something happens in your life that causes you to wonder **WHY bad things happen even to God's people:**

**Do not withdraw from us because we still love you.**

**Let us know your hurt, your sorrow, and your needs.**

**You still belong to us as a member of our church family, so stay with those who love you.**

**We need to heal your heartbreak, and you need our love.**

For one day the roles will be reversed, and we will have heartbreak, and we will need your love.

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If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "**How to Treat the Brokenhearted in the Family of God**" then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "**...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**"

Romans 10:13, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**"



If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know? Please send an e-mail to, pdmikBBM@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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