

Management of Grief

Part 2

Further discussion about the causes and the management of grief.

13- Foolish children or foolish disciples: *“The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.” (Proverbs 10:1) “21 To have a fool for a child brings grief; there is no joy for the parent of a godless fool.” (Proverbs 17:21) “25 A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the mother who bore him.” (Proverbs 17:25)* Parents will have grief when the children are fool or disobedient. The children who have failure in their studies, pursuing sinful life, doing their own will and plan, all shall bring grief to the parents. As well as the disobedient disciples who had been taught and trained by the church to do God’s work but when they will pursue their own dreams and plans and live in selfish ambition and in sin, that will cause grief to the church and the leaders who are caring for them.

14- Rejection by the disciples: *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief : for that is unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17 KJV)* Church leaders who disciples and care for workers they can be a victim of grief when their spiritual children or disciples would go and move away from obeying the word of God and the will of God. What we can advice for the church leaders here is not to give up but to continue to admonish and to teach and to reach new people and make new disciples and care for them. Godly parents like the church leaders can be also a victim for grief when their children go in disobedient path. What we advice those parents here is to continue to pray and fast for their children and not to continue to spend on them but to save their resources till their children will come back to their senses, repent and return back to God and bear the fruit, as in the situation of the lost son.

15- Toil and anxious striving: *“22 What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? 23 All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.” (Ecclesiastes 2:22-23)* Grief, pain and anxious minds are the outcome of toil and anxious striving of people labor. This is what we advice, *“24 A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, 25 for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?” (Ecclesiastes 2:24-25)* A balance life is required so in one side is toil and living in righteousness and in other hand enjoyment and satisfaction. A period of rest and reflection to evaluate is needed for the next step.

16- Trials: *“6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” (1Peter 1:6-7)* God would allow trials of many kinds in your life so that your faith will be tested till it is proven to be genuine. The grief that you are passing through in these trials will reproduce in you and for the glory of God praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

17- Slave submission to bad masters: *“18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. 19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what glory is it, if,*

when ye be buffeted for your faults , ye shall take it patiently ? but if, when ye do well , and suffer for it, ye take it patiently , this is acceptable with God.” (1Peter 2:18-20 KJV) It is a grief when you do well and serve properly but yet your superiors and masters are not happy with you and unjust toward you. Yet what you are doing and your attitude toward abuse is commendable before God as you are following Christ example, *“21 For even hereunto were ye called : because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again ; when he suffered , he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we , being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed . 25 For ye were as sheep going astray ; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.” (1Peter 2:21-25 KJV)* As you follow Christ example and be willing to suffer and grief as he was then you are truly returning to Christ and truly God will reward you for that. Such Kind of grief is a ministry and we should not put aside.

18- Bad News!: *“22 When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. 23 They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief.” (Matthew 17:22-23)* The disciples were grieved because they heard that Jesus would be going to be betrayed. But we know that this news is not a bad one because with Jesus death on the cross we receive salvation and eternal life. What I want to say here that certain time you may hear bad news that would grief you, but take heart, watch forward and you will see the good outcome of all what is going on around you, *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)*

19- People’s sins: *“5 If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. 6 The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. 7 Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. 9 Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. 10 Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” (2Corinthians 2:5-11)* When people sin that will cause you and the rest of the church members to grief, and the management of such kind of grief is to forgive the offender and find out a final solution that agrees and go along the Word of God.

20- Multiple sins: *“Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease. The LORD has brought her grief because of her many sins. Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.” (Lamentations 1:5)* Continuous sinning or for many sins, the Lord will bring grief on those who are doing that. The treatment for that grief is repentance and returning back to the Lord.

21- The love of money: *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” (1Timothy 6:10)* Grief will come into your heart when you start to love and trust money as the source for your life and confidence. Come back to God, trust Him, rely on His word and pursue on His ways so that sorrow and grief will depart from you.

22- *Persecuting Faithful and godly people: “12 Afterward Mordecai returned to the king’s gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, 13 and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, “Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!” (Esther 6:12-13) Haman was persecuting the Jews because he was angry with Mordecai for he was not willing to kneel down and pay honor to Haman as we can read here, “1 After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. 2 All the royal officials at the king’s gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. 3 Then the royal officials at the king’s gate asked Mordecai, “Why do you disobey the king’s command?” 4 Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai’s behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 Yet having learned who Mordecai’s people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai’s people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.” (Esther 3:1-6) Persecuting and hating and trying to destroy the faithful people of God will end you up in grief. Repentance from that is needed so joy will find way to your heart.*

23- *Standing with the Lord and doing His work and will: “1 The word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying , 2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch; 3 Thou didst say , Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest. 4 Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, that which I have built will I break down , and that which I have planted I will pluck up , even this whole land. 5 And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.” (Jeremiah 45:1-5 KJV) “1 When Baruch son of Neriah wrote on a scroll the words Jeremiah the prophet dictated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, Jeremiah said this to Baruch: 2 “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch: 3 You said, ‘Woe to me! The LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am worn out with groaning and find no rest.’ 4 But the LORD has told me to say to you, ‘This is what the LORD says: I will overthrow what I have built and uproot what I have planted, throughout the earth. 5 Should you then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the LORD, but wherever you go I will let you escape with your life.” (Jeremiah 45:1-5 NIV) We know that Baruch was called by God to stand with Jeremiah, and he was the one who wrote part of what Jeremiah was receiving from the Lord. He suffered with Jeremiah because the people were rejecting the word of God, but he was more concern about his own life and he was more concern about himself. Therefore the Lord admonished him and corrected him. The Lord assured him that He will pursue in His plan to discipline and punish the people for their sins but in regard to his life, Baruch’s life, the Lord shall keep safe. To the contrary of Baruch was the spirit of Jeremiah the prophet. For he was in full agreement with and accepting God’s will in full as you can read here: “Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous : but I said , Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.” (Jeremiah*

10:19 NIV) “Woe to me because of my injury! My wound is incurable! Yet I said to myself, “This is my sickness, and I must endure it.” (Jeremiah 10:19 KJV)

My Dear and Beloved: Grief certain a time is a godly one, and is a ministry, we cannot reject or put aside, but we need to accept, embrace and endure, so that we will be standing with God and with His will in order that His plans would be fulfilled as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins _____ . Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous : but I said , Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it. Lord I commit my life and cause unto your hand, I will continue to serve you and do your will. Lord sustain me and give me perseverance so I can continue to be effective in my service unto you and your will be done on earth, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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