

Joy in the Mourning

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13 *Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.*

In this life there is grief and pain. There is death. The death of loved ones, the death of hopes and dreams, the death of friendships. It is good to let the experience of grief, pain, and death wash over us so that we can mourn the reality of the brokenness of this world and mourn with Jesus. This is not the way it's supposed to be.

But in the midst of grief, pain, and mourning we can cling to the hope we have in the One who will make all things right when He comes again to set all things right

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Losing a child

The Sorrow Unto Joy

Fertility treatments are often accompanied by painful waiting. And that painful waiting is sometimes intensified by hopeful moments interrupted by the pain of miscarriage.

In remembrance of **Dale Ambrose**, **Cara Nicole**, and **Dierdre Joanne**; lost to the world before we knew you, before we had a chance for the first hug, the first kiss, the first giggle, the first steps, the first "I love you," the first shared joy. The sadness only parents can feel at the loss of a child is ours. We have no pictures to remember you be – except for some fuzzy ultrasounds. Therefore, to remember you, we dedicate to you verses from the beloved Scripture. Your names are chosen from these verses so that they may serve as a memoriam. Whenever we read or hear these verses they shall remind us of you, and not only so, but also the hope we all have in our beloved Lord. God. And we, on earth, await the final day when we shall see Jesus and you. Every day that passes is a day closer to His return – and a day closer to our reunion.

Dale Ambrose – Your name means *Valley Divine*

We lost you, Dale around my birthday, just before our Christmas celebration. Around this time of year, we always hear the words used in Handel's music, "The Messiah." That message brings us hope, and we shall remember that hope more dearly now.

Comfort, comfort my people says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand, double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every **valley** shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low the rough ground shall become level and the rugged places a plain, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind together shall see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken. **Isaiah 40:1-5**

His **divine** power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the **divine** nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. **2 Peter 1:3-4**

Cara Nicole – Your name is derived from the Hebrew words *Yaqar Nachal*, Precious Heritage.

Since you are **precious** and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made. **Isaiah 43:4-7**

See it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flames and makes a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc; no weapon forged against

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you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the **heritage** of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord. **Isaiah 54:16,17**

Diedre Joanne – Sadness of Joanne. We lost you, too. Could we even try to have another child? The pain was numbing us at this point, but we did not know if we could go through this anguish yet another time.

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for the living God. When can I go out and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go out with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so distressed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him my Saviour and my God. My soul is downcast within me: therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, the heights of Hermon – from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all you waves and breakers have swept over me. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" My bones taunt me saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?" Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so distressed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.

Psalms 42:1-11

This Child of Ours

This child of ours we give to you
This little one we surrender
This tiny child we offer you
This helpless one so tender
This helpless one so tender

And it was yours to give and take
But you let go awhile
And from your Son you turned away
Then returned him to your hands
Then returned him to your hands

For ours is not to give and take
But merely hold awhile
It's from your hand that we bring forth
Then return into your hands
Then return into your hands

And we await the final day
When we shall finally see
The ones we lost beside you
And we shall cease our sorrowing
And we shall cease our sorrowing

What we conceive we dearly love
With bitter tears we grieve and lose
But we remember you also grieved
When from your Son you turned away
When from your Son you turned away

It's only for a little while
That we must bear our pain
The hands that brought us all forth
Shall restore us then in peace
shall restore us then in peace

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For those who have experienced abortions and are in pain and mourning, there is hope and forgiveness.

The Unborn Cries

I'll never hold my mother
I'll never have the chance
I'll never live to see the light of day

Why did you end my journey?
Why did you take my life?
Why did you choose to end my chance to love?

Only by God's forgiveness
Only by God's grace
Only by God's power we'll be healed

We'll wait to meet in heaven
We'll wait for our first hug
We'll wait to share our stories and our lives

God will cover painful choices
God will heal the painful wounds
God will bind our hearts in overflowing love

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We enter into the most intimate of relations with shared dreams and hopes for the future. When one of the partners dies there are still memories ... and there is still hope.

Losing a Life Partner

All in eternity

We wait for troubled waters to be finally stilled
We wait for dreams and wishes to be finally filled
We wait for some tomorrow when we shall finally be
All together, all is better in eternity

We had some fun and good times, with laughter as we'd fall
We had some small and big plans, our life was very full
We had our precious moments and memories so warm
Life together is life better, life in eternity

Side by side we labored, shouldered all we could bear
Side by side we wrestled, rested only in our prayer
Side by side encouraging each other as we'd go
Worked together, walked together towards eternity

I'll miss your lilting smile that brightened up my day
I'll miss your calming touches that kept me from going astray
I'll miss your warm embraces, the joy you raised in me
Love together, love is better, love in eternity

Until I go to meet you on that eternal shore
Until I lay my burdens and my labors are no more
Until I greet you once again, my heart will ache for you
All together, all is better, all in eternity

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Deeper

The shadows in the valley are deeper
The light of life
Who walked by my side
Is gone

I long for the arms that once held me
That made me feel warm
That comforted me
At night

The pain of my journey o'erwhelms me
Away and at home
I'm feeling alone
Right now

But the one who called you home
One day will call for me
And we'll all meet beyond the vale
And we'll walk on the mountain of joy

The death of my beloved goes deeper
It rips through my soul
It causes my heart
To weep

I long to hear the voice that once called me
That made me feel home
That filled my heart
With peace

I'm missing your love and your friendship
The joy of my life
That anchored me through
The storms

But the one who called you home
Will one day call for me
And we'll all meet beyond the vale
And we'll walk on the mountain of joy

The light in my life goes deeper
Through pain and death
I shall find my rest
And peace

I look to the day
I will hold you
Forever again
Life with you again
In heaven

There'll be joy to displace all the sadness
The pain and the hurt
The loneliness will
Be gone

But the one who called you home
Will one day call for me
And we'll all meet beyond the vale
And we'll walk on the mountain of joy

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Death is not necessarily the end of good times with good friends.

Losing a Friend

On Glory's Shore

One more day of wondering of what the day will bring
Will it be a day with crying, some laughter or a song

Will it be a day with grief or sorrow, or overflowing joy
But we cannot worry for there's never a way to know

And then maybe some tomorrow, I'll wake on Glory's shore
With no more tears of sorrow and no more cries of pain

And then one day in Glory, with joy I'll shake your hand
For precious are the memories of the journeys that we shared

No more beers of sorrow will pour across our lips
No more furrows of worry will crease across our brow

No more silent worries, no more burdens we can't bear
No more secret heartaches, no more fears we cannot share

For the one who's shared our journey, shared our sorrows, laughs and joys
Is the one who's shared His life with us and the one who's brought us here

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For those who know Jesus, death in this life is followed by life in the next.

Facing death

My Eyes Have Seen the Morning Star

I ran as to win the race of life
I ran to win those who were lost
I ran with patience to the Lord of Lords, the King
I ran, but now I rest my weary bones

My eyes have seen the Morning Star
My ears have heard the Living Word
My hands have touched the nail pierced palms
My soul's found rest within His arms

The treasure that was in the earthen jar
Is now released from chains of grief and pain
My soul has found Jesus at the journey's final end
I wait for you to join me with my Friend

My eyes have seen the Morning Star
My ears have heard the Living Word
My hands have touched the nail pierced palms
My soul's found rest within His arms

The life we shared together did not end
But in a while more we'll meet my friend
And while you wait gain wisdom and you'll shine like heaven above
So run, until you rest your weary bones

My eyes have seen the Morning Star
My ears have heard the Living Word
My hands have touched the nail pierced palms
My soul's found rest within His arms

The Sweetness of Death

The sweetness of death all around me
The sweet taste of death in the air
Is the sweet breath of Jesus who's taking me home
And the pain that surrounds me is the pain he will bear

Through the pain of the sorrows around me
The incense of heaven comes near
And reminds me of home and that I'm not alone
And the soft hand of Jesus is drying my tears

As the shadows of heaven enfold me
And the mercy of Jesus draws near
The pains and cares of this world start to fade
While the comfort of heaven overwhelms all my tears

In our room full of shadows we see dark and light
Some things that pain us and some things delight
But as we pass through the portal and out of the night
We'll see shadows of heaven transform into light

All the people I regarded so lightly
And the friends I have clung to so tightly
I must let them all go but I'll pray that they'll know
The God of all Comfort who calls through the night

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It is not only death that brings us grief and pain, sometimes it's life's circumstances, sometimes it's the wounds of friends and loved ones. It can be very hard if we experience that grief and pain alone, but God knows, God cares, and someday God will make things right

Coping with hard circumstances

Only Heaven's Eyes

When you wake up in the morning only seeing
Another weary day that never ends
And you've barely strength enough
To take another weary step
And in your heart you feel the endless pain each tearful step will bring

When the harshness of this life seems overwhelming
And stretches out as far as you can see
And oceans of despair surround
And threaten to engulf you
And your spirit sinks beneath the tide of ever rising tears

Only heaven's eyes can see
Your each and every faithful step
And every silent tear
And the wondrous majesty
Of the grace you've left along the way

Only heaven's ears can hear
Each weary sigh you breathed
As your courage drew you onward
Though your strength would slowly fail

Only heaven's eyes can see the light
Of heaven's reflections in your eyes
Only heaven's ears can hear
The courage in your voice
As you breathe another weary sigh
And take another painful step

Fullness of Grace

And the stars will shine like many distant promises
As they guide us through the dark and dreadful night
But as we walk into the day
We can look back and see the way
Our footprints have brought glory to His name

And the fullness of our pain
Will be the life that we have gained
And the fullness of His justice and grace
And our pain will be finally erased

Wounds inflicted by our brothers will be slow to heal
As our hearts overflow with bitterness and pain
But what the darkness has concealed will by our Saviour be revealed
His grace will fill our hearts 'til we are healed

And the fullness of our pain
Will be the life that we have gained
And the fullness of His justice and grace
And our pain will be finally erased

As we walk into the storms of our self-righteousness
And our sins engulf the lives of those we love
Let us turn the pain we bear into an attitude of prayer
We are servants of His grace and of His care

And the fullness of our pain
Will be the life that we have gained
And the fullness of His justice and grace
And our pain will be finally erased

Until the Lord returns there will be many sorrows
Consequences of our sin and all our pride
But as we go before the cross
Forgive our brothers, reach the lost
We'll endure the pain that we might pray and cry

Our brother cries
Our Saviour cries

And the stars will shine like many distant promises
As they guide us through the dark and dreadful night
But as we walk into the day
We can look back and see the way
Our footprints have brought glory to His name

And the fullness of our pain
Will be the life that we have gained
And the fullness of His justice and grace
And the fullness of His justice and grace

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Why did you lead me here

Why did you lead me here, O Lord
The path has been so long
I worked so hard, my very best
But I am not sure at all
That I am where you want me now
Where I'm supposed to be

For now I'm facing great resistance
I cannot overcome
How should I go from here, O Lord
To simply try another way
Or enter into the conflict before me
That you would have to win

I need you to give the wisdom, Lord
To help me choose the way
I need your strength and courage
To help me every step
I need your peace and grace
To help me know I am

Where I always thought I was
Following you in the very path
Where you have been leading me
And continue to lead me still

Hard Times

When death and suffering surround
When grief and tears abound
When despair is at the door
Or the door cannot be found

We may yet cling to the hope
And to the God of peace
Who promises us a life beyond
Where troubles shall be ceased

In the meantime in this place
We still can yet prevail
And ask for courage, strength and wisdom
In the midst of our travail