

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 11, 2021

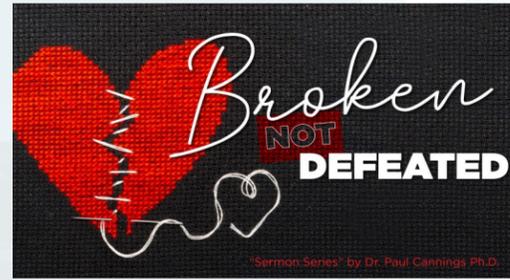
The pain of losing a loved one can be excruciating, especially if we are left alone after their passing. People we may have been very close to, who always had our backs, and demonstrated unconditional love for most of our lives can be seriously missed. We miss them because we got used to sharing our troubles and our good times with them. Even though we may know the Bible and pray, we still miss them. Christ never said this pain was unspiritual, He just called on us to remain focused while experiencing the pain (John 11:33-36; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; 5:14). I am convinced of this one thing—we will never stop missing those we genuinely loved and who sincerely loved us.



Christ knew the disciples would miss Him, so He taught them how to function when they were in pain. We see how dismayed they were when Christ ascended into heaven, “And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight, and as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going...” (Acts 1:9-10). He taught them to remember they would one day be there with Him (John 14:1-4; Matthew 18:27-30). Before this happened, He told them they would have the Holy Spirit imputed into them to provide them comfort (John 14:25-28). In other words, even though they may get the theology, they need the love. This may sound good but how does it work?

The Spirit, all by Himself, is our means of experiencing peace (John 14:27). Experiencing the powerful work of the Holy Spirit within us is what shapes our spirit to provide us strength when we are weak (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). This is the core of it all. This is why Christ calls the Spirit our Helper. Christ tells us we must remain committed to truth (John 8:31-32) because this connects us directly to the Spirit who is the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-17) and this turns the lights on in our hearts (1 John 1:5-7). We must not allow the circumstances we are in (create conflicting thoughts, doubt, etc.) to cause us to fear (John 14:27). Our obedience leads to the Spirit renewing our minds and transforming our hearts (Romans 12:2) and Christ and God loving on us (John 15:8-10; answered prayer, etc.). We also should not isolate ourselves from the church because this is the place God holds accountable to love and support His children (Romans 12:9-15). When we remain focused (because this becomes our deliverance) the worst of the pain vanishes and the empowerment we need from the Spirit of God (Philippians 2:12-13) keeps our hope alive (1 Thessalonians 4:13) and makes us less dependent on ourselves and more dependent on Him.

Christ’s Helper— the Holy Spirit— has a mission to be our peace. He’s our Comforter and we must engage Him.



## UPCOMING Events

### “From Tragedy to Triumph”

Join us as we begin our weekly **Center for Christian Living** series on Tuesdays entitled “From Tragedy to Triumph” starting **April 20th—June 1st** online via Zoom.



We will dissect the life of Job and his family. Job experienced some traumatic things in his life. As a people, we’ve been going through some troubling times because of COVID-19. However, just like Job there is an expiration date to our troubles. Let’s come out and learn how to get to the other side of tragedy. Restoration and Triumph is on the way.

For more information, contact [nordbullock@yahoo.com](mailto:nordbullock@yahoo.com)



### NOW HIRING—PRESCHOOL TEACHER

ABC Word Academy is now Hiring Pre-K Teachers. An accredited Pre-School. Call 281.260.7402 to set up your interview.



### Prayer Vigil

The Prayer Ministry is hosting the “Beyond” Prayer Vigil, **Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 12 noon and 7 pm.**

He who hath began a great work in you will carry it on to completion...” Philippians 1:6.



### Family Bible Encounter

We are excited to announce our upcoming Family Bible Encounter starting **June 8th– 10th**. Our theme is “**I Got This**”: “*I Can Do All things Through Christ ...*” *Philippians 4-13*. We have awesome classes for Adults, Youth, and Children! Hope to see you there at 6:30pm nightly.

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

**Ages 2—6th grade**



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

The Word of God

*Finding Peace*

Genesis 37:34-35; 42:36; 46:29-30 (2 Cor. 5:8-9)

Dr. Paul Cannings

Sermon notes available online at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)

Click on the “Media” tab and click “Sermon Outline”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**

**2:30 3:45 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**

**SUNDAY 6:30 PM**

## Finding Peace

Genesis 37:34-35; 42:36; 46:29-30 (2 Cor. 5:8-9)

### A. No Peace (Genesis 37:33-36):

1. When love is partial it can damage lives.
2. True love has no cure.
3. He never stopped missing his son (Genesis 46:30).
4. Jacob's life was not the same (Genesis 42:36).
5. Hebrew Sheol describes the underground abode of the dead, answering to Greek "Hades." There, according to tradition, disembodied spirits continue to exist in shadowy regions that have no exit and no communication with God or man. It is a mere half existence. Jacob realized that he would be going to Sheol soon, but he had no hope of seeing an end to his poignant sufferings until that hour.
6. Jacob loved all his sons, and he desired to preserve his family (Genesis 43:14).

### B. God Restores (Genesis 42:36-37):

1. Upon seeing the money in the sacks Jacob immediately spoke up with no desire to stop saying what he felt.
2. Jacob was in a state of feeling childless as if under the divine judgment of God.
3. Jacob's sons were seeking to continuously, with no end in sight, to permanently take Benjamin. He did not expect Benjamin to return because he believed that Joseph was dead.
4. The word "against" could mean beyond him. Jacob felt as if his entire family was being taken from him and he had no one left. This is because he loved the children from Rachel more than Leah.
5. Because Jacob's sons were continually seeking to get him to release Benjamin, Jacob believed that everything was continuously and endlessly working against him.
6. Reuben spoke up and provided a possible solution after seeing the grief his father displayed.
7. Reuben knew they did not deserve their father's trust.
8. Reuben keeps saying to Jacob that if he does not return Simeon and Benjamin, Jacob can execute Reuben's sons.
9. Reuben commanded Jacob, since Reuben gave him his two sons, to hand over Benjamin for him to take care of from his heart. He understood the generosity of the gift and therefore would exercise care for Benjamin from his heart.
10. Reuben will personally use all the means that are within his authority and power to not allow any harm to come upon Benjamin.
11. Reuben will continuously, with no end in sight, make sure that Benjamin comes back to his father.

### C. God Heals (46:28-30; Revelation 21:4):

1. Jacob chose Judah to go forward in advance of the company, to meet Joseph, and complete the arrangements for their entrance into the land.
2. Jacob wanted to make sure that the way they were going is established and focused on the 76 people that were with him because this issue is in his face (before him) - connotation of aiming or controlling.

3. To arrive in Goshen which was a fulfillment of God's promise – they came with a purpose (bring) and did not stop until it was filled.
4. These sentences serve as brackets for a long narration about Joseph's administration during the famine. The effect of his administrative actions strengthens governmental control over the entire Egyptian population (vv. 16–19). Pharaoh ends up owning all the livestock and property, save only that of the priests.
5. It did not matter how difficult it is to travel Joseph went from a lower elevation to a higher elevation to meet his father.
6. Joseph intellectually inspects all the people before in search of his father because that was what mattered most based on the message he received.
7. Joseph threw himself down on his face – as prince of all Egypt, Joseph placed himself into the hands of his father.
8. Wept is an extraordinarily strong display of distress and an outward emotion of grief. Joseph (as a prince with all his attire and his princely chariot) did not cry he wept, not once, but several times and God made sure it is recorded. Jacob did not cry – he seems to be still in shock but was willing to die now.
9. Joseph's weeping has a sense of repetition and permanence – a continuation of a past and present event – Joseph had no time in his mind to stop weeping. He did not care who was looking (76 people are watching), he loved and missed his father so much that all he could do was weep.
10. The basic idea is the uttering of some type of spoken word – Israel could also be thinking within oneself with the intention to do something.
11. What Jacob was saying is that if someone was to kill him, execution-style, it was good because he had finally seen his son. Jacob lived with the purpose of hopefully one day he will see his son.
12. What Israel is saying is that he has carefully and cognitively checked Joseph out (Joseph was most likely in all his Egyptian clothes) and Joseph is truly Joseph.
13. The person standing in his face is truly Joseph.
14. Jacob has seen that Joseph is living in good health, doing good, and prospering.
15. God providentially sends Joseph ahead so that all God's people live and God's promise to Abraham has been fulfilled.
16. Israel started saying with no intention of not saying that Joseph was alive. A sense of excitement as he talks to the 76 people who are viewing what is taking place.
17. God put a family back together, accomplishing His purposes that sin once took apart.
18. Sin causes us to be separated for a while, but God by His power and grace puts us back together again in heaven forever (2 Corinthians 5:6-8). We must trust His plan and find comfort (John 14:1-4) and peace because there is going to be no more crying (Revelation 21:4).

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Grieving:** Vicki Wilson & family, Roslyn Grimes & family, Mary Wheatley and Carol Dickerson & family, Patricia Moore & family, Judy Times & family, Terrance Ford & family, Clara Williams & family, Lynette Mims and family, April Caldwell & family, Elaine Marshall & family, and Jennie Dangerfield & family, Dale and Jackie Ward & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bull-ock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Debra Gaines, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, and Jon Heard.

# FINDING PEACE

GENESIS 37:34-35; 42:36; 46:29-30 (2 COR. 5:8-9)