



August 2019
Newsletter

JULIE'S HEART CRY

Bringing Hope to Women Globally

Dear friends and partners,

A disclaimer: This will sound a bit preachy.

It will be eleven years next month, September 2nd that our 10 year old daughter Irene went home to be with the Lord from a swimming pool accident in Central Virginia.

In the months and years after Irene going home, it was evident that many of our friends and people who knew and heard of her death struggled with anger towards God. We tend to justify our anger towards God, believing that God is big enough to handle our anger. Brother Job tried that and was rebuked by God.

Truthfully, it is never ok to be angry towards our Holy God no matter what He has allowed to come our way.

Here is why I was never angry with God. Six months before the death of Irene, she gave her life to Jesus, became a born again believer and her father, my husband, had the joy of baptizing her. Because Irene was born again, I know I would see her in heaven someday.

Now, how can I blame, accuse, be angry and bitter with the same God who sent His Son to suffer and die on the cross for our sins in order to give us, including Irene, eternal life? In the midst of all of this, somehow by the grace of God, we were able to understand that God was not the originator of death and evil.

Our view of God or the order of where we place Him in our lives will dictate how we respond to tragedy directly or indirectly.

Someone once said, "A tragedy does not make you, it reveals who you are." One need not to look far after any kind of tragedy or natural disaster to know how true this statement is.



We all know that our experiences with grief will be different based on many things, including where we are spiritually. The Bible never prevents us from grieving. However, as followers of Christ, the Bible gives us guidelines. We are not to grieve like others who have no hope. Without a complete and total trust in God, this will be impossible!

Grief is real. A pain beyond expression. A life and family destroyer. It will eat you alive and take you down an uncontrollable spiral if you let it. Even grief must be processed from a biblical perspective if your desire is to honor God in all things. We have learned that grieve and self-pity cannot co-exist. They are mutually exclusive. If one desires the deep work of God through healing, grief and self-pity cannot co-exist.

All this to say, Cyrus and I don't think we are better than you just because we didn't divorce after the death of our daughter. It was only because of the power of God's word and His grace that we did not divorce.

Cyrus has said, "the guilt of giving permission to Irene to go swimming would have swallowed me, but the grace of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ has sustained me."

For Cyrus and me, processing and grieving biblically was imperative and the only way for a deep healing. It is only within the timeless word of God that His supernatural power was able to transform and strength us for this journey and now this ministry.

A Bible study is slowly in the works. But until then, when we come along side of other parents who have lost children through miscarriage, abortion or natural causes, the word of God is ready and available and so are we.

Here are a few areas in which we will encourage them:

- ◆ it is ok to grieve
- ◆ you can be free from guilt
- ◆ grieve biblically
- ◆ take your thoughts captive under the authority of Christ
- ◆ trust in God's promises no matter how you feel
- ◆ allow God's word to be your final authority
- ◆ do not give place to self-pity
- ◆ in the midst of it all, praise God for the gift of life of your loved one.

Julie Mad-Bondo