

## INTRODUCTION:

### Notable Quotable:

The fire that normally destroys will shape you, refine you, and strengthen you.  
It will benefit you rather burn you!

God will turn evil on its head so that what is achieved is the opposite of evil’s intent.” Satan wanted to thwart God plan of salvation and in crucifying Jesus he ended up accomplishing God’s plan.

*As for comfort, when we seek it, I can imagine none greater than the happy knowledge that when I see the death of a child, I do not see the face of God but the face of his enemy. It is a faith that has set us free from optimism and has taught us hope instead.”*

*“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things.” Romans 8:31-32*

### Today:

*“Only grant me these two things, God,  
and then I will not hide from you:*

*<sup>21</sup> Withdraw your hand far from me,  
and stop frightening me with your terrors.*

*<sup>22</sup> Then summon me and I will answer,  
or let me speak, and you reply to me.*

*<sup>23</sup> How many wrongs and sins have I committed?  
Show me my offense and my sin.*

*<sup>24</sup> Why do you hide your face  
and consider me your enemy? Job 13:20-24*

*“At least there is hope for a tree:  
If it is cut down, it will sprout again,*

## We Will Get Through This: “Resources to Face Adversity”

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Job 13:20-24; 14:7-17

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*and its new shoots will not fail.*

<sup>8</sup> *Its roots may grow old in the ground  
and its stump die in the soil,*

<sup>9</sup> *yet at the scent of water it will bud  
and put forth shoots like a plant.*

<sup>10</sup> *But a man dies and is laid low;  
he breathes his last and is no more.*

<sup>11</sup> *As the water of a lake dries up  
or a riverbed becomes parched and dry,*

<sup>12</sup> *so he lies down and does not rise;  
till the heavens are no more, people will not awake  
or be roused from their sleep.*

<sup>13</sup> *“If only you would hide me in the grave  
and conceal me till your anger has passed!*

*If only you would set me a time  
and then remember me!*

<sup>14</sup> *If someone dies, will they live again?  
All the days of my hard service  
I will wait for my renewal to come.*

<sup>15</sup> *You will call and I will answer you;  
you will long for the creature your hands have made.*

<sup>16</sup> *Surely then you will count my steps  
but not keep track of my sin.*

<sup>17</sup> *My offenses will be sealed up in a bag;  
you will cover over my sin. Job 14:7-17*

### Three Resources to Help Us Get Through Life

#### I. The Comfort of His Presence

“Don’t hide from me and I won’t hide from you.”

Illustration: *from* “View from A Hearse” (Life-Journey Books, 1992) by Joe Bayly

“I was sitting, torn by grief. Someone came and talked to me of God’s dealings, of why it happened, of hope beyond the grave. He said things I knew were true. I was unmoved, except to wish he would go away. He finally did.

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Someone else came and sat beside me. He didn't talk. He didn't ask leading questions. He just sat with me for an hour or more, listened when I said something, answered briefly, prayed simply, left. I was moved. I was comforted. I hated to see him go!!”

“I am with you. I am for you!”

Mt. Everest

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”* Matthew 11:28-29

II. The Power of His Glory

A Tree

Grape Vines

*“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an **eternal glory** that far outweighs them all.”*  
2 Corinthians 4:16-17

*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”* James 1:2-4

The Velveteen Rabbit (pgs. 16-17)

## Growth Through Adversity

“The Rabbit sighed. He thought it would be a long time before this magic called Real happened to him. He longed to become Real, to know what it felt like; and yet the idea of growing shabby and losing his eyes and whiskers was rather sad. He wished that he could become it without these uncomfortable things happening to him.” (*The Velveteen Rabbit*, pg. 20)

### III. The Joy of Resurrection

#### The Tree

Job says... not so with people:

*“so he lies down and does not rise;  
till the heavens are no more, people will not awake  
or be roused from their sleep.” (vs. 12)*

*“If only you would hide me in the grave”*

BUT before that could occur...

*“and conceal me till your anger has passed!” (vs. 13)*

*“Surely then you will count my steps  
but not keep track of my sin.  
My offenses will be sealed up in a bag;  
you will cover over my sin” (vss. 16-17)*

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*“If only you would set me a time  
and then remember me!” (vs. 13)*

*“So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. I Corinthians 15: 42-44*

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the **atoning sacrifice** for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;” John 11:25*

*“I will wait for my renewal to come.” (vs. 14) The Hope of resurrection*

*“You will call and I will answer you;  
you will long for the creature your hands have made.” (vs. 15)*

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16*

Our Hope

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Job 13:20-24; 14:7-17

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Two aspects to this gift that provides even greater comfort:

- As Extension of Our Time
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- As Restoration of Our Life

*"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."* Romans 6:4