

4 Reassuring Ways to Find God's Purpose When You Feel Hurt and Abandoned

Throughout the Christian walk, people often experience great earthly loneliness. The enemy uses rejection, unrealistic expectations and abandonment from others to convince God's children that they have been forgotten and that God caused the pain to somehow punish them. As believers, we are living in the last days and in critical times. Satan is deceiving Christians to doubt God during times of suffering.

During the great falling-away of the church, people are turning away from God and trying to fill their loneliness with the temporary pleasures of this world. Christians young and old try to find love and acceptance through pornography, partnering in unequally yoked relationships and filling their voids with addiction and self-harm. Some have left the church because they suffered unexpected losses of relationships or deaths of loved ones and have blamed God. Some have isolated themselves from God and others and have taken roots of bitterness, hatred and revenge out on others who have hurt or abused them. Some have become angry with God because they did not yet receive their healing, get married, get the job they wanted or have children the way they thought they would.

After suffering the pain of being raped, going through two painful divorces, losing my home, suffering financially as a single mom and experiencing great pain, rejection in friendships, ministry and working relationships, I understand earthly loneliness. I often thought my solitude was a punishment from God. There were times I questioned the purpose for the pain. If I loved others with the love of Christ, why did they reject and abuse me? If I was faithful in my relationships, why were they unfaithful back? If I tithed and

gave to God, why did I struggle to make ends meet? If I was loyal at work, why was I isolated and falsely accused? At the end of all of the questions and the tears, I had decisions to make: Was I going to believe in the goodness of God? Was God's Word true? Did Jesus exchange my earthly loneliness and pain at the cross for eternal joy and peace?

After isolating myself, trying things in my own strength, experiencing rejection and loneliness from others and buying into the lies of the enemy, I needed to wake, up, repent, take my stand and trust that I was connected to God no matter how lonely I felt. Because Jesus took my pain on the cross, my temporary earthly pain would be exchanged for eternal joy. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us" (Rom. 8:18). God has turned my life around and is continuing to redeem all the pain I experienced. From those seasons of pain, my ministry and calling were birthed to those around the world needing hope of His restoration.

The very gifts of freedom, peace and joy that Jesus died to give are willfully being exchanged for doubt, fear and resentment. It's time to wake up to the enemy's scheme!

Here are four ways to transform that earthly pain and loneliness into kingdom purpose:

1. **Remember that Jesus understands all of our pain and suffering.** He experienced every pain we have and will face. "He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from him; he was despised, and we did not esteem him" (Isa. 53:3). If we think we are alone in our pain and loneliness, we are reminded that Jesus experienced great earthly loneliness and rejection from his family, His followers and those for whom He suffered and died then and now.

2. **It's time to stand up and get rude with the devil.** Jesus gave us the gift of salvation. We need to stop exchanging our gift with a thief! Satan is the one who robs us and brings destruction. It's time to stop fighting God and others and put the enemy in his place, which is under our feet: "Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph. 6:10-13).
3. **Thank God for replacing the pain with His purpose.** As we remember God's goodness, trust that He is doing a great work inside of each of us during these lonely times. God did not cause your pain, but He will use it. He can use it to strengthen our faith, build character, protect us from world influences and refine us when sin is exposed. He brings healing to our hearts when we connect with Him, and sometimes everything else falls apart or withers away until we are face-to-face with our heavenly Father who is the only one who can fill the void. The pain we feel now will be turned around for His good. We were never promised a life without pain but that God will walk us through it. He will take that pain, help us overcome and then use it as a testimony to others who are experiencing the same suffering and loneliness. "Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble by the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Cor. 1:3-4).

4. **Remember that the pain and loss we experience in this life is temporary.** Those in Christ who stand with Him and His Word until the end are promised that one day all pain and loneliness will be gone, and limitless joy, peace and belonging abounds for eternity! But after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called us to His eternal glory through Christ Jesus, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you" 1 Peter 5:10 (MEV).

Our earthly pain and solitude are only for a season. Take heart, take a stand and connect to the One who will bring you victory, restoration and hope. Jesus understands our pain, but he died and rose again to exchange it for our beautiful testimonies and eternities of everlasting joy and acceptance!

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