

Blessed are those who Mourn
For they shall be Comforted

Makarios – (greek) – blessed, happy, fortunate, well off, the highest good

Pentheo – (greek) - To grieve, lament, mourn, bewail

Parakaleo – (greek) – comforted, encouraged, strengthened by consolation, called to one's side

A person who mourns over her sin is sensitive and responsive to personal sinfulness. She is also tenderhearted toward others.

Kay Arthur – I know my years of independent living brought much shame and pain to the heart of God. How I distorted His image of womanhood! If it were not for His comfort, I don't think I could live with my past. As the hymn says, 'There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.' However, I believe that mourning can be for reasons other than sin (even though sin is one reason for mourning).

John MacArthur – Happy are the sad is contrary to everything we know. The whole structure of our life – the pleasure-madness, the thrill-seeking, and the money, time, and enthusiasm expended in pursuing amusement and entertainment – is an expression of the world's desire to avoid mourning and sorrow and pain.

Areas of mourning:

Bereavement – death, still born, illness

Disappointment – divorce, betrayal, financial losses, abuse

Sense of Sadness (Depression)

Sorrow for Sin – abortion

The Anguish of the world around me – children & women wronged, mistreated, deserted; slavery; torture, starvation, disease, indignities of this world, the sin of this world

Areas of Comfort:

A sense of the love of God

The secret of humility – accepting the circumstances of life as either by divine appointment or permission of a God who loves me

Realization of the eternal

Presence of the Comforter

The Hope of Heaven

What is the relationship between our times of mourning and God's comfort?

What is the relationship between our times of mourning and our ability to extend comfort to others?

Describe a time when you experienced sorrow and mourning. How did you receive the comfort of God? Through the touch and presence of the Holy Spirit? Through God

using the love and care of another follower of Christ? Through the truth you learned from the Bible? In some other way?

Describe a time when God used you to extend compassion and comfort to a person who was in a time of sorrow and mourning. How did you feel when you realized God was ministering His comfort through you?

Greatest comfort in time of loss is the presence of another human being. Do you agree?

Efforts to explain God's intent help someone in grief. Do you agree?

We receive blessing through a person who sits down and weeps with us. Do you agree?

We feel alone when we are mourning. Do you agree?

Examples of Mourning:

1. Abraham wept when his wife died.
2. Psalm 42 – David wept as his soul pants after God. Tears of loneliness.
3. 2 Timothy 1:3-4 – Timothy wept because of discouragement and defeat.
4. Jeremiah 9:1 – Jeremiah preached with tears about the coming judgment. Tears of disappointment.
5. Acts 20:31 – Paul admonished with tears. Tears of concern.
6. Mark 9 – father of demon possessed son cried with the tears of love for his son.
7. Luke 7 – woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears – tears of devotion, tears of worship, tears of heartfelt gratitude

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV) - For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Think about it: the blessing does not come from our mourning; it comes from God's response to it, but you have to mourn to receive the response. The comfort is in Christ, the source of all comfort. Read the verse again.

John MacArthur – If we are true mourners, we will mourn not only over our own sin but also over the sins of the world. .. Is our heart broken when God's heart is broken?

Thomas a Kempis – The more spiritual a man desires to be, the more bitter does this present life become to him, because he perceives better and sees more clearly the defects of human corruption.