

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Are you hurting?

Sometimes we get to a point in our lives where life has seemed to lost its meaning, its purpose and direction.

As Care Givers we must learn to adjust our sights to see and be a blessing to not only our first time attendees, but to give attention and care to our adults and teens in our membership who might be hurting.

There are five signs to look for of hurting people.

1. People's countenance... A drawn or oppressed face. Look for pain in people, not sin! Look over the whole church auditorium. Don't even overlook the most faithful church member who might be hurting.
2. People's eyes... Are they bright and alive or are they dull, dark and empty?
3. People sitting alone... Physical isolation indicates a single person; couple or family does not have any friends in the church. Don't let people sit alone. (Last Sunday during Sunday school a women came in and sat in the back. I asked my wife to go over and sit with her and try to make her comfortable.
4. People who talk to you with their heads down... These people are so hurt they do not even want to make eye contact with you.
5. People who tend to sit in the back... Usually, individuals who are "on their way out" often sit in the back. These are people who are thinking about leaving. Perhaps they have been taken for granted or ignored for too long.

Do you feel helpless? This may happen during times of lost health, the loss of a loved one, or old age, or possibly a broken relationship. In life's crisis one often forgets that God is there. I want to give you five thoughts that may be a comfort to you.

1. God Exists!

Rom 1:19-20 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

We can know that God exists, because your eyes read His blueprints every day! He confirms to us His presence in the glory of a brilliant sunset and the tranquility of a star-studded evening sky. These natural images are a wordless picture that speaks boldly and loudly of God's existence.

It was said of Abraham... *Rom 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

We must believe... *Heb 11:6 that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

2. God Understands!

Ps 147:3-5 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. 4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. 5 Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

God knows the exact number of stars that dot the heavens and He even knows each by their own name. Therefore, you can have the utmost assurance that our Heavenly Father completely understands what you and I are experiencing. *"His understanding is infinite!"*

Christian, rest assured, the details of your difficulties have not escaped God's concern. The Bible says that God *Isa 40:12 hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span,*

and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance.

He knows the weight, the circumference, and the make-up of every minute dust particle.

Surely, our Heavenly Father understands the minute details of your life. (He made man from the dust of the earth.)

3. God Cares!

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

God invites you and I to throw off, to hand over, cast ALL your worries, and concerns on Him, because He cares for you!

Jesus told His disciples... *Matt 10:29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

It is probably unlikely that you and I ever really even thought about counting the hairs on our head, but God cares enough about you and I, to number each hair!

John 3: 16 For God so loved...

God cares so much about us that He sent His only begotten, unique Son, to die on the cross in our place to pay for our sin, and He will soon return to claim His own, those who have placed their trust in Him.

4. God is in Control!

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Difficult events and circumstances in life may not appear to be working toward good.

But God is at the helm of our lives! God not only cares about our well-being but he wants to accomplish his predetermined purpose in your life.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

God's Word states... *Job 23:10-14 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. 11 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. 12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. 13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth. 14 For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him.*

Our lives may at present be difficult, even bordering on chaos, but God is able to take all the pieces and assume firm control!

5. God Supplies!

Ps 50:15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

We must trust God's grace and have faith in Jesus Christ as both Lord and Savior of our lives. And as you trust Him, God will supply His power for the trials of life and grace to help in times of need.

Spend some time now in God's Holy Word for the scripture says...

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

As God's children we no longer need to face life's trials and struggles in our own natural strength, but through the strength of His loving power!

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Song: Pg. # 377, "Rescue The Perishing" written by Fanny Crosby

Down in the human heart,
Crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried-
That grace can restore;
Touched by a loving heart,
Wakened by kindness,
Chords that are broken-
Will vibrate once more!

Our availability gives God the opportunity to do a miracle through us!