



Dear TCC family,

As we grieve and mourn together this unimaginable loss of our dear friends and family, we, the TCC Elders, want to walk alongside and shepherd and encourage through the counsel of our great God and Savior. The Psalmist writes that it is the Lord who “heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.” - Psalm 147:3. Paul describes God in his very nature “the God of all Comfort.” – 2 Cor. 1:3. It is in this moment especially that we look only to Him for our understanding, hope and healing.

Psalm 119:49-50, 52, “Remember the word to Your servant, In which You have made me hope. **50** This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has revived me...**52** I have remembered Your ordinances from of old, O Lord, And comfort myself.

In walking through grief and fears together, we want to share specifically the help that God gives to us in His Word – Romans 15:4. These are not exhaustive by any means but some foundational principles in how God comforts and calls us to navigate through trials:

- 1) We have hope amidst grief – 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Ecc. 3:4
 - We acknowledge that grieving is a normal and good response in the wake of loss and tragedy. God says there is a time to grieve. As those in Christ, we do not grieve as those who do not have God. In Christ, we have the blessed assurance that those who have passed are with Christ. We also have the assurance that we will see them again someday when in the providence of God, we too are with the Lord. As Paul says, we can encourage one another with these words.
- 2) We must Look to God and trust Him in who He is and all that He says – Is. 12:2; 26:3
 - He is Comforter (2 Cor. 1:3-4; John 14:26) – God comforts us in our distress and strengthens us to comfort others. He has also given us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us.
 - He is Sovereign (Gen. 50:20; Job 2:10; Lam. 3:37-38; Dt. 32:4; Rom. 8:28) – God’s sovereignty provides hope and meaning to loss. He is the one sovereign ruler of the entire universe, from the biggest details of the cosmos to the smallest details of our lives. He ordains and orchestrates all things according to his perfect will. Know that God is in our grief and is near.
 - He is Faithful (Lam. 3:22-23; 2 Thess. 3:3; Ex. 34:6) – God never fails to accomplish His good purposes or keep His precious promises. He is always faithful and will never change. From eternity past to eternity future, His faithfulness endures.
 - He is Good (Gen. 50:20; James 1:17; Rom. 8:28; Ps. 84:10-12; Ps. 100:5) – God is perfectly good in His nature, and all His ways are good. In His sovereignty, He works all things together for the good of His beloved saints.
 - He is All-Wise (Rom. 11:33-36; Col. 2:3; Is. 55:8-9) – When we cannot comprehend how and why certain things occur, we are to take comfort in the fact that God understands completely and orchestrates with all wisdom.
- 3) Practice the One-Anothers. (Gal. 6:2; Heb. 10:23-25; 1 Pt. 4:8; 1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11) –

God has created us in His image as relational beings who need each other to fulfill the purposes that He has for us. Within the body of Christ, this truth is very rich as we are instructed to practice the “one another’s,” including comforting, encouraging, and carrying one another’s burdens.

- 4) Guard our heart and mind (2 Cor. 10:5; Rom. 12:1-2) – We must take our thoughts captive and renew our minds in Christ and the Scriptures. In taking captive our thoughts, we must replace them with God’s Truth. Always meditate on Scripture you have memorized, especially when struggling to trust. **Isaiah 26:3–4**, “The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You. **4** “Trust in the Lord forever, For in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock.

Guard against:

- Doubt (Gen. 3:1; Lk. 1:18-20, 34-38) – Satan loves to tempt us to doubt God and His Word. Ever since the Garden of Eden, this tactic is used by our enemy. When we don’t understand, we are to believe God’s Word like Mary, not unbelieving like Zechariah.
 - Anger (James 1:19-20; Eph. 4:26) – There is righteous anger against sin and evil that we can have, but our hearts can easily be tempted to cross to sinful anger or anger directed at God.
 - Fear (Ps. 56:3-4) – The Devil wants us to be anxious and afraid, but we are to direct our fears to the Lord and trust in His attributes as listed above.
 - Isolation – When pain, sorrow, and grief are upon us, we can have the desire to avoid others, but God has designed us to depend on one another, especially during hard times.
- 5) Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18; Heb. 4:15-16; Phil. 4:6; Ps. 34:4; Jms. 5:16) The Lord calls and invites His children to “draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Go to Him, rest in Him, and be anxious for nothing.
- 6) Worship the Lord (Col. 3:16) We inform our hearts and minds through the truth of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise” Martin Luther.

Jude 24–25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, **25** to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

TCC Elders