



Christian Questions

Think about the Bible like you never have before

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your question. You wanted to know if God wants you to rejoice even though your loved one was murdered. You said you hoped that Jesus is compassionate and cries with you when you are hurting, but you were beginning to have doubts.

First, we would like to express our heart-felt condolences on your loss. Please do not doubt. Our Savior definitely feels your pain since he was touched by all of our infirmities, including grief. We remember in particular Jesus' reaction just before he was to perform his greatest miracle of all - the raising of Lazarus. "When Jesus saw her [Mary] weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 'Where have you laid him?' he asked. 'Come and see, Lord,' they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'" (John 11:33-36)

A few weeks after this incident, Jesus was crucified, died and was resurrected, thus paying the ransom price for Adam's sin so that all who have ever lived will have an opportunity for life everlasting. Therefore, rejoicing, even though you are grieving, is an internal expression of your faith in God's overruling providence. Of course you may continue to grieve and cry for your loss while you rejoice, remembering God's wonderful plan of redemption.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 tells us that we do not sorrow like others who have no hope. That does NOT mean we do not sorrow! Death has touched all of us and it reminds us how painful sin ultimately is.

Be assured. Jesus feels your pain. Pray to God and Jesus and ask for comfort and strength as you go through this difficult time. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16)

May we suggest a podcast we did on March 5, 2018 Episode 1011, "How Do I Find My Way Through Grief"? You can find it under "Archives" on our website or your favorite podcast channel. We focus on our guest who lost both parents at a young age, and a mother who lost her five year-old son in an accident. They offer sobering advice on how to put one foot in front of the other during a terrible time of grieving.

We hope we have encouraged you. Be sure to sign up for our weekly newsletter to receive CQ Rewind at ChristianQuestions.com. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

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