



Weeping

You wake up from a restless sleep. Your mind goes to the loved one you are caring for. You don't focus on any particular issue. You just think about their suffering and difficulties. Feelings of love surge for your loved one. Then your feelings zero in on the hurt you feel for them. You begin weeping quietly. You remember the better times the two of you experienced. And now you are sad for them and yourself for the times that are left behind. This is not the way you wanted their life to be. Your weeping lingers as you move on to others in your family and your hopes and dreams for them. Sadness is growing as the tears quietly stream down your face. It is going to be one of those nights to let our feelings come out in a slow cry.

Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet. God gave him a vision of Judah's future. It wasn't good. Within the huge collection of prophetic oracles that make up the fifty-two chapters of Jeremiah's witness, one finds more than tears, more than frank admissions of pain, and more than convictions about the evils of Judah. One also finds startling promises of hope, hope found not merely in the possibility of human repentance, but grounded squarely in the amazing grace of God. Such a passage is 31:31-34. In this world we have troubles. Even as Jeremiah was weeping for Israel and Judah, his tears turned to hope that God would make all things new.

Jesus is known as our Savior, but Jesus also shows his empathy and compassion through His tears. In John 11 Mary and Martha send for Jesus because Lazarus is very sick. Lazarus dies before Jesus arrives and Mary and Martha are in mourning, surrounded by their Jewish friends. It was when Jesus saw Mary weeping, and all the Jews who had come along side her also weeping, that Jesus shed his tears. He saw the pain being felt by the group. It affected Jesus deeply and he wept. (Jn 11:35)

It is okay to weep for someone you love. It is not the loss, but the losing that hurts. The losing of good times, dreams, conversations and autonomy. So we let the feelings flow through us as we slowly and quietly weep our tears so as not to disturb others. Finally, we fall back to sleep as the good thoughts and memories of past times start to enter our mind. Tomorrow will be another day. We need our rest. The bitter/sweet taste of tears has given us some release. The tears slowly dry. Somehow, we are tired again and ready for sleep. And the night passes.

Did God just give our feelings a cleansing? Did we experience hurt and love at the same time? Was God trying to share a word with us?

"Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor last a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning." Ps. 30:4-5

It may not be joy in the morning, but some of the heaviness and load seems to be lifted for a moment. Maybe if some of the tension has been released through the weeping, I can thank God he let a little pressure out of my pressing balloon.

“Unless the Lord had given me help, I would have dwelt in the silence of death. When I said, ‘My foot is slipping,’ your love, O Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul.” Ps. 94:17-19

“Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry for help come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly.” Ps. 102:1-2

Have you had a night of weeping?	Did you find any hope or relief?	Where was God for you during that time?

The blessings of tears:¹

*They express the deep grief of the heart .
They lighten the weight of sorrow.
The relax raw nerves reaching the
breaking point.*

*They ease the intensity of inner pain.
They are a part of being human.
They begin the process of healing
and transformation.*

The Lord doesn't promise to give us something to take so we can handle our weary moments. He promises us himself. That is all And that is enough. Charles Swindoll

Always remember that each person you see in the congregation sits next to h9is or her own pool of tears. Trevor Hudson

¹ Trevor Hudson, Hope Beyond Your Tears: Experiencing Christ's Healing Loe. Nashville: Upper Room Books 2012