

Death of a Child

All life is precious to the Lord. All life begins at the time of conception. Whether our days are many or few each is a gift from God and is to be honored.

Psalms 139:13 (NLT) You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

“To the parent of the stillborn or to those who have held a dead baby in their arms—one who died so shortly after birth, seeming to have flown before it was truly known, caught away by an early flight—I tell you, that child's soul (and the miscarried and aborted) is no less caught up to God's presence as an eternal being than the soul of a ninety-year-old man or woman, who dies and goes to their maker.”

—*I'll Hold You In Heaven, Jack Hayford*

God's promise of comfort in times of mourning

Matthew 5:4 (NIV) Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Comforted: G3870 *par-ak-al-eh'-o* : to call near

Matthew 5:4 (TMNT) “You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

Angels at the time of death

Luke 16:19 - 23 (NASB) “Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. ²⁰“And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹and longing to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. ²²“Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. ²³“In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

Matthew 18:10 (NASB) “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

We are encouraged to have an eternal perspective

2 Corinthians 4:18, 5:1-9 (NLT) So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever. ^{5:1} For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down—when we die and leave these bodies—we will have a home in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. ²We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long for the day when we will put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. ³For we will not be spirits without bodies, but we will put on new heavenly bodies. ⁴Our dying bodies make us groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and have no bodies at all. We want to slip into our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by everlasting life. ⁵God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit. ⁶So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. ⁷That is

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why we live by believing and not by seeing. ⁸Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. ⁹So our aim is to please him always, whether we are here in this body or away from this body.

We are comforted knowing that we will see those we love again at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18 (NLT) And now, brothers and sisters, I want you to know what will happen to the Christians who have died so you will not be full of sorrow like people who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus comes, God will bring back with Jesus all the Christians who have died. ¹⁵I can tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not rise to meet him ahead of those who are in their graves. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. ¹⁸So comfort and encourage each other with these words.