

Family: Past, Present, and Future

Redemption in Mourning

Hi Revive Family,

We all have experienced some kind of loss this year and in our own ways had to mourn that loss. The loss may have been something physical like a family member, friend, a pet, even things like a house or a job. It could also be something not seen like loss of a tradition, hope or dream, a plan for ourselves or someone else, etc. I wanted to write a creative piece to showcase how these emotions can manifest and how they compare to God's truth and how God can enter into those spaces, bring us into deeper connection with people, and redeem our situation. He brings us into a space of safety, healing, and growth. (note: Grief/loss/emotions aren't necessarily bad things but the enemy can use these things to move you to process/mourn in a negative way)

Story

Little child,

You cannot hide from us. We are powerful and mighty and overwhelming. We linger and lurk and strike. We are patient. We seep into your thoughts and take root. We invite others and remind you that you are nothing but your emotions which have overwhelmed and swallowed you. There is nothing left except us: Anger, Guilt, Fear.

I am the why's that remind you of the unfairness. Try to push me down and contain me but that only fuels me more. I am unpredictable and sporadic. I devour you on the inside until I am released. Destruction, devastation, and bitterness I leave you. I am Anger.

I am the should haves, could haves, and what if's. Hide. When they learn what you have done or not done, they will reject you, curse you, and hate you. Exposed. Imagine how ashamed they are of you. Oh, how alone you will be, and oh how I will convince you this is the only way. I am Guilt.

I am the creature you never see but always know is there. I anchor you down deeper till you are blinded, lost, and untethered to anything but me. Where do you go from here? What will you do now? What is wrong with you? Who are you? The more I ask the farther you drown. I am Fear.

Try to block us out. Numb. Try to hide from us. Abandoned. Try to protect yourself. Helpless. Try but you are not enough. We know you and we see you. You are broken and weighed down. Stay here with us. We are your only companions. We are Anger, Guilt, and Fear.

My beloved,

You cannot hide from me. Powerful and mighty and overwhelming is my love for you. We are patient. We love and comfort and protect. We are in you and you in us. We remind you of who you really are and who you were created to be. You need nothing more than us: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I am your defender. I go before you and fight for you. I will bring forth righteous anger and redeem the wrongs against you. I am not afraid of who you think you are. Scream. Yell. Punch. I will still embrace you. Release, acceptance, and safety I leave you. I am the Father.

I forgive you for all that you have done and all that you are going to do and I give you permission to forgive yourself. I am not and will never be ashamed of you. You were worth it all. Come out of hiding. If you aren't ready, I will sit here with you till you are. You are never alone. I am the Son.

I am here. Though you cannot see me, I will always be here. Breathe me in and calm your spirit. I will guide you and I will hold you and I will never let you go. I will ground you and give you strength and fill you with peace. Lean on me and trust me, I will help you stand. I am the Holy Spirit.

My love is not fragile. It is fierce, unfaltering, and relentless. I created you and chose you. You are whole. You are exactly where you need to be, but you were not made to carry this alone. Let me in. I'm in no rush. I just want to be with you. I am God.

What do you notice are the similarities and differences between the two letters?

The main purpose of these letters:

1. For it to be used as an expression of what you might think, feel, or experience when going through a loss.
2. To be used as a tool for us to help understand how others might be processing or feeling when going through a loss.

As we move into Christmas and the new year, here are a few reflection questions:

1. How have we experienced loss? How have we/are we processing through that loss?

2. How can we come alongside those who are mourning?

3. How is God redeeming our situation for His glory?

I know this can be a heavy and vulnerable topic; know you don't have to do this alone. Our Revive core staff and prayer team would love to meet, process, and/or pray with you. You can submit a request through our online form or reply back to one of our emails.

We pray blessing, covering, peace, and love over all of you. May He meet you in your processing and may he bring you deeper into His presence. And always know that you are seen, valued, and loved!