

2 Corinthians 4:17 – For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. (CSB)

The Ministry of Compassion (Part 2)
Responding to Despair

Luke 7:11-17 – ¹¹Afterward he was on his way to a town called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd were traveling with him. ¹²Just as he neared the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was also with her. ¹³When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said, "Don't weep." ¹⁴Then he came up and touched the open coffin, and the pallbearers stopped. And he said, "Young man, I tell you, get up!" ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Then fear came over everyone, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited his people." ¹⁷This report about him went throughout Judea and all the vicinity. (CSB)

Biblical facts about hell:

1. It's a **real place**.
2. It's not a **social experience**.
3. It is **eternal** and it is **irreversible**.
4. **Sin** and **death** will be destroyed.

Matthew 13:41, 50 – ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather from his kingdom all who cause sin and those guilty of lawlessness. ⁵⁰and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (CSB)

Romans 8:38-39 – ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NASB)

Responses to despair in our lives:

1. **Reject** – I can't believe
2. **Tolerate** – I wish it wasn't happening
3. **Epiphany** – Thy will be done

2 Timothy 1:12 – That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return. (NLT)

John 5:24 – I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. (NASB)

1 John 3:1 – See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (NIV)

I can be convinced:

1. I will never have to worry about my **opposition** from God in my life.
2. I will never have to worry about God **providing** for me.
3. I will never have to worry about God **accusing** me.
4. I will never have to worry about God **condemning** me.
5. I will never have to worry about being **separated** from God.

Jeremiah 31:3 – Long ago the Lord said to Israel: “I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself. (NLT)

Zephaniah 3:17 – The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. (NIV)

Thought For The Week:

Whether we live or we die, we rejoice or suffer, we are hard pressed or over blessed, **God is in control** of it all.