



August 2025

Dear CWR/PTM Friend and Partner,

“Laugh, and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone.” —Solitude by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Tears are an essential “ingredient” in what it means to be human. We cry when we lose a loved one, when our children and grandchildren do well (and when they don’t), when we listen to a song, when we watch a movie and when memories bounce off the walls of our minds. Tears are caused by pleasure and pain, by “good” memories and “bad” ones.

David cried *tears of emotional pain and loss* over his rebellious and hateful son Absalom. Abraham cried *tears of grief and loss* over the death of Sarah, his beloved. When the rooster crowed as the sun rose, after denying Jesus three times in the night before the crucifixion, as Jesus told him he would, Peter “wept bitterly” with *tears of regret* (Luke 22:62).

Standing in front of Lazarus’ tomb **Jesus wept** (John 11:35) *tears of sympathy* with the mourning of friends and family, and because of their inability to believe that he truly was “*the resurrection and the life*” (John 11:25). He knew in a few moments he would bring Lazarus back to life and the grief and sorrow of friends and family would be turned to joy and laughter. He wept out of compassion for the human condition, and how tenuous is our grip on physical and spiritual life.

Apart from the tears all mankind experiences, tears are also present in our life in Christ as we follow him. We experience *tears of joy* in our new life in Christ as we give thanks for our loving heavenly Father revealed to us in Jesus, rather than the corrupt, false picture of God as a God of vengeance and wrath. We weep *tears of joy* because our heavenly Father is gracious, merciful and filled with steadfast love.

Crying and laughter are both reactions resulting from increased emotion, but while laughter can be heard here and there during our earthly sojourn, tears are far more frequent. Try as we might, there are times when we are not able to hold back tears. **Tears are not, as some believe, a sign of spiritual weakness—neither are they a sign that we lack spiritual courage and faith.**

Tears are a sign that we are human, God’s very own children, confused, frustrated and in physical and spiritual pain as we endure the storms and struggles of life. Tears are a release valve for stress, anxiety and depression.

Infants cry all the time, anywhere and everywhere. In fact, the cry of a baby just after he or she is born is a sign they are alive. When infants cry at birth, their efforts open their lungs and starts the process of breathing. They receive the breath of life.

When I think of babies crying, I recall the initial lyrics of the beautiful song, *I Believe*, by Frankie Laine, first recorded in 1953:

*I believe for every drop of rain that falls
A flower grows*

Then, later in this inspirational song lyrics that still brings tears to my eyes:

*Every time I hear a newborn baby cry
Or touch a leaf, or see the sky
Then I know why I believe.*

While infants normally (hopefully) cry in the company of parents and family, for adults crying is often a solitary experience. *Tears of loneliness* increase when our physical bodies deteriorate, we endure losses of mobility, we lose family and friends to death, and the life we once knew is in the past. Aging brings *tears of regret* as the world we once knew shrinks and disappears.

While a tear is basically composed of water and salt, and a few other components that serve to lubricate our eyes, far more important than being just a biological event, tears are spiritually and emotionally significant. **Tears give evidence of the deepest longing of the heart and soul.**

Rivers of tears have flowed since the beginning of human history. Tears are a sign of broken hearts, shattered lives and forsaken hopes. Tears are a sign of grief and sorrow as we face the reality of death and the grave—yet in such cases Paul assures Christ-followers we need not “*grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope*” (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

In the face of tears, sorrow and tragedy *we believe* that in his resurrection Jesus conquered death and the grave—*we believe* that our risen Lord Jesus is alive, and will return again to this earth, and then we will rise from our graves. This is our hope, even in the midst of tears.

Tears can blur our spiritual vision, and cause us to lose sight of Jesus, who as our risen Lord, has overcome death and the grave. Just as they cloud our physical vision, tears can cause us to lose sight of Jesus. Tears can cause **our belief in Jesus** to be diminished.

“*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die...*” (John 11:25, my emphasis).

Yet, even as death happens to us all, and even as loss, grief, pain and suffering are experienced by everyone, even though we cry and shed tears, we do not “*grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope.*” Our hope is summarized by a grand, majestic passage in which the new heavens and new earth are described.

“*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look, God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away’*” (Revelation 21: 3-4, my emphasis). This is our hope—this is God’s promise in which **we believe**.

Let us focus on this Christ-centered hope, on this promise of God’s presence and peace, **our belief**, our ever-present comfort and hope:

- No more hurt and pain
- No more grief and loss, or fear of grief and loss
- No more worry—no more hate—no more war
- No more aging
- No more hospitals or senior citizen’s homes

- No more homeless people self-medicating themselves with drugs
- No more loneliness
- No more bad news
- No more funerals to attend
- No more doctor's visits
- No more cancer or disease.

Now, on this side of eternity, as we continue to live in our bodies of flesh, we still live in this world, with all the things that will one day pass away, with the *"old order of things"* including sorrow, pain, loss, death, anxiety, tears and crying (Revelation 21:4).

With Paul, *"we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord"* (2 Corinthians 5:6-8).

I am reminded of a pastor who was at the bedside of a dear friend who was on his death bed. "Pastor," said the man in a barely audible voice, "I know I'm going to die, but I am not afraid. I know that I am going to be with the Lord, and that I shall be with him forever and ever." He paused, for his emotions were getting the better of him and tears began running down his cheeks. The pastor took out some Kleenex and started to wipe away the man's tears. "Thank you, Pastor. The next time tears are wiped away from my eyes, my heavenly Father himself will do it."

Whether you are grieving a loss and dealing with the aftermath of suffering and pain, whether you are now in the midst of a storm, whether storm clouds are on your horizon, know that Jesus has been, is now and always will be with you in the midst of the pain, suffering, loss, grief, suffering and struggles of life. *In the midst of our tears, We Believe!*

Finally, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the peace of God we know as we rest in Jesus, I pray this prayer for you, as the Apostle Paul expressed to his friends and partners, to those to whom he ministered and pastored in Thessalonica:

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you" (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

Your brother in Christ,



Greg Albrecht
President, Plain Truth Ministries

CWR/PTM Prayer List—August 2025

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

Please continue to pray for me as I struggle with AFib (Atrial fibrillation). Thank you so much for all your messages, prayers and support. I pray that God will continue to bless everyone on the CWR/PTM staff and everyone involved with this ministry.—California

Please pray for relief from the pain in my legs, and pray that my wound from a radiator burn will heal quickly.—North Carolina

Please continue to pray for me as I am recovering from a fall and surgery to repair a broken hip. I also have various other health issues I'm dealing with at the same time.—Arizona

My husband of 53 years has advanced dementia. Pray for God's guidance as we deal with life changes.—Texas

My husband recently suffered a stroke that left him blind in his left eye, and he is suffering with dizziness and instability when walking. Please pray for his strength and healing.—Mississippi

Our adult daughter is developmentally disabled and living with us. This is causing no end of stress. Please pray for us to have peace and a bit of a break.—New York

Thank you for all your uplifting messages and all the resources you provide. I pray that God will continue to bless each and every one of you.—Indiana

Please keep me in your prayers—my mother and brother died last year and I've been in contact with nieces and nephews, trying to keep us connected and let them know that they're not alone.—Washington

Please pray for my parents who are in a nursing home. My mother has advanced dementia and my dad hit his head and was just moved in the same memory care center as Mom.—Wisconsin

Thank you for providing the weekly sermons on your website. My wife and I try to listen every week. We also appreciate that you share communion with us regularly. We appreciate and pray for all of you!—Minnesota

I've been in the hospital again with inflammation of the intestines. I have a bleeding ulcer in my stomach and I lost a lot of blood but I'm feeling better now. Please continue to pray for me.—Georgia

I recently lost my wife of 68 years of marriage. It's so hard to go on. Please keep me in your prayers.—Virginia

I pray that God will continue to bless everyone at CWR/PTM and give you the strength and resources you need to help all those in need of his comfort, hope and good news.—North Carolina

I want to thank you for your card and prayers after the loss of my home due to the Eaton Fire. You helped to comfort me and gave me the strength to handle what lies ahead. I'm now settled in with my daughter and son-in-law in a rental house.—California

Please pray for me as I struggle with Parkinson's disease. Medication is helping but I would really appreciate your prayers for comfort, encouragement and healing.—Arizona

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You love each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.