

## A Time to Mourn – Lesson 10 Of Wells and Worship

*“That the trial of your faith,  
being much more precious than of gold that perisheth,  
though it be tried with fire,  
might be found unto praise and honour and glory  
at the appearing of Jesus Christ:  
Whom having not seen, ye love;  
in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing,  
ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:  
I Peter 1:7-8*

### Stages of Acceptance

- In *God’s Healing for Life’s Losses*, Kelleman divides the acceptance into four “Stages of Hope” that help bring healing.
  - These stages, with their typical and Christian responses, are:
    - Regrouping – Waiting
    - Deadening – Wailing
    - Despairing/Doubting – Weaving
    - Digging Cisterns – Worshiping

### Digging Cisterns

- In the times of the Bible there were only a handful of ways to have water: live near a source of freshwater, dig a well, or have cisterns to catch and hold rainwater.
- Jeremiah 2:13 uses the imagery of cisterns to illustrate how God’s people had turned away from Him to their own strength.
- In essence, we turn to our strength and turn away from the overflowing fountain of God’s grace.
- When we rely on our ourselves, we are left thirsty and unsatisfied from an insufficient and often polluted source.
- For long-term recovery and even prosperity we must have a source of strength greater than ourselves.

### The Christian Response

- As Christians, we do not have to rely on our own strength and instead go to God.
- We have a choice: we can allow our sufferings to drain us dry or we can draw nigh to God who strengthens us.

- In doing so, we do not focus on *what* God is or even *who* God is but rather on God Himself. – Psalm 73:25
- God works through our suffering to bring us back to Him – Psalm 42, I Peter 1:6-8
  - This is infinitely better than the “acceptance” the world offers.
- Kelleman defines *worship* as “wanting God more than wanting relief”, “finding God even when you don’t find answers”, and “walking with God in the dark and having Him as the light of your soul”.

## The Rest of the Story

- While we are in this world, we are guaranteed that there will be troubles to face – John 16:33
- But we have a greater promise that one day “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” – Revelation 21:4
- While the Christian may be assured of a sure future in Heaven, the road we walk and the heartaches we carry often feel like a roller coaster of highs and lows.
- No matter what we face, no matter the heartache, no matter the grief – we have a Savior to lean on for support – Matthew 11:28.

*Father, whate'er of earthly bliss  
Thy sov'reign will denies,  
Accepted at Thy throne of grace,  
Let this petition rise.*

*Give me a calm, a thankful heart,  
From every murmur free;  
The blessing of Thy grace impart,  
And let me live to Thee.*

*Let the sweet hope that Thou art mine  
My life and death attend;  
Thy presence thro' my journey shine,  
And crown my journey's end.*

*Anne Steele, 1760*