

What is your greatest regret?

Our greatest regrets are almost aways connected to a fear that keeps us from doing what's good for us because it feels too hard for us.

Why is it we often find it hard to do the things that are good for us?

We let what is hard for us rob us of what is good for us.

God can't keep promises... He never made.

Be cautious of claiming Old Covenant promises as a New Covenant follower of Jesus.

"But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises."

Hebrews 8:6 NIV

Life

"For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance..."

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 NIV

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10 NIV

Rest

"God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it."

Hebrews 4:1 NLT

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Help

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Hebrews 4:14 NIV

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Hebrews 4:15 NIV

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16 NIV

"The compassion of Jesus is the compassion of Almighty God, and Jesus says to your heart and mine, 'Don't ever be so foolish as to measure my compassion for you in terms of your compassion for one another. Don't ever be so silly as to compare your thin, pallid, wavering, moody, depending on smooth circumstances human compassion with mine,

for I am God, as well as man.' When you read in the Gospels that Jesus was moved with compassion, it is saying that His gut was wrenched, His heart torn open, and the most vulnerable part of his being laid bare. The ground of all being shook, the source of all life trembled, the heart of all love burst open, and the unfathomable depths of the relentless tenderness was laid bare.

Your Christian life and mine don't make any sense unless in the depth of our beings we believe that Jesus not only knows what hurts us, but knowing, seeks us out whatever our poverty, whatever our pain. His plea to His people is, 'Come now, wounded, frightened, angry, lonely, empty, and I'll meet you where you live.

And I'll love you as you are, not as you should be, because you're never going to be as you should be.' Do you really believe this? With all the wrong turns you made in your past... the mistakes, the moments of selfishness, dishonesty and degraded love? Do you really believe that Jesus Christ loves you?

Not the Person next to you, not the church, not the world. But that He loves you—beyond worthiness and unworthiness, beyond fidelity and infidelity. That he loves you in the morning sun and in the evening rain. Without caution, regret, boundary, limit.

No matter what's gone down, He can't stop loving you. This is the Jesus of the Gospels. A Jesus who says...I have a word for you. I know your whole life story. I know every skeleton in your closet. I know every moment of sin, shame, dishonesty and degraded love that has darkened your past. Right now I know your shallow faith, your feeble prayer life, your inconsistent discipleship.

And my word is this: I dare you to trust that I love you just as you are, and not as you should be. Because you're never going to be as you should be. Do you believe that Jesus and The Father loves you beyond worthiness and unworthiness, beyond fidelity and infidelity, that he loves you in the morning sun and in the evening rain -

that he loves you when your intellect denies it, your emotions refuse it, your whole being rejects it. Do you believe that God loves without condition or reservation and loves you this moment as you are and not as you should be. For you he gives grace — a grace that pays the eager beaver who works all day long the same wages as the gaining drunk who shows up at ten till five...

a grace that hikes up the robe and runs breakneck toward the prodigal reeking of sin and wraps him up and decides to throw a party of no ifs, ands, or buts...indiscriminate compassion that works without asking anything of me —

grace that is sufficient even though we huff and puff with all of our might to try to find someone or something his grace can't cover. His grace is enough. Jesus is enough. He has one single relentless stance towards us -He loves us. He is the only God man has ever heard of who loves sinners.

My friends, if this is not good news to you, you have never understood the gospel of grace."

Brennan Manning

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16 NIV

On the other side of, "Lord I need you," is help.