

# Weathering the Storm: Facing Tragedy

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – March 8, 2015

[Romans 8:35, 37-39](#)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?  
36 ... 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Jesus said,] "In this world you will have trouble.  
But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Truth about Tragedy:

- **IT'S NOT GOD'S HEART FOR US TO SUFFER.**

[Matthew 11:28](#)

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

- **TRAGEDY IS THE RESULT OF SIN AND BROKENNESS IN OUR WORLD.**

[Romans 8:22-23](#)

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

- **IT'S OKAY TO GRIEVE. BUT THE CHRISTIAN'S GRIEF IS DIFFERENT.**

[1 Thessalonians 4:13-14](#)

13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

You can victoriously face tragedy by...

1. **WALKING IN FAITH**

[Romans 8:38](#) For I am convinced...

[2 Corinthians 5:7](#) We walk by faith, not by sight.

[Hebrews 11:1](#) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

2. **TRUSTING IN GOD'S POWER**

[2 Corinthians 12:8-10](#)

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

3. **TAKING COMFORT IN ETERNAL THINGS**

[Romans 8:35](#) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

[2 Corinthians 4:16-18](#)

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

[Revelation 21:4](#)

[God] will wipe 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."

4. **LIVING OUT YOUR PURPOSE**

[James 1:2-4](#)

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.