

---

# LAMENT

---

NOW FAITH IS CONFIDENCE IN WHAT WE HOPE FOR  
AND ASSURANCE ABOUT WHAT WE DO NOT SEE.

HEBREWS 11:1

---

In the Jewish teaching of the scriptures, rabbis often refer to lament as “the language of the border.” They characterize lament as the words and groans that rise up out of the depths of your spirit when you sit on the border between knowing what should be and is coming in its fullness (the wholeness and complete perfection of his presence and his kingdom) and what is (the brokenness of earth). They teach that this language of the border has one direction it can go—toward the Lord our God. We see throughout the Psalms and poetic books in scripture that lament is evidence of an honest relationship with the Lord and a vision for his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Lament is living evidence of a kingdom now, and not yet.

---

## PRAYER

---

Heavenly Father, at times the darkness is overwhelming and it is hard to see you. But I know you are there. You never leave me or forsake me. Remind me to look for the light that comes from you knowing that, as your light shines through me, the fruit of your light will produce goodness, righteousness and truth in me. Lord, I want to use what I have been given for your glory. May this light shine brightly on the borders for others. May my grief be found useful even when times are difficult. May the laments of my heart over what isn't and cannot be give evidence to the kingdom now and not yet. Thank you, God, for your greater plan that we can only see when we keep our eyes on Jesus, Light of the World.



---

# MEDITATE

---

FOR WHATEVER WAS WRITTEN IN FORMER DAYS WAS WRITTEN  
FOR OUR INSTRUCTION, THAT THROUGH ENDURANCE AND THROUGH  
THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SCRIPTURES WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE.

ROMANS 15:4

---

“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup>As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”  
Mark 4:3–9

Jesus’ words in this passage were for the honest seekers, not those who were simply seeking evidence to be used against him. In this season, make meditating a regular rhythm in your life. No one outgrows scripture—and yet we often live our lives as if we don’t need to be “bathed in a text of scripture, and let it be sucked up into our very soul until it saturates our hearts!” (Charles Spurgeon, paraphrased).

---

## PRAYER

---

Lord, forgive me for being careless with your word, allowing it to land on the hard, shallow, crowded soil of my life. I want to gain deeper understanding through a regular rhythm of time spent with you through your word.

---



---

# FORGIVE

---

AND HOPE DOES NOT PUT US TO SHAME, BECAUSE GOD'S LOVE  
HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS  
THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US.  
ROMANS 5:5

---

It was once a common practice for farmers to tie a guide rope from the back door of their house to the barn door as winter approached. Even though the path between house and barn was familiar, during a blizzard, the swirling snow and white-out conditions were so disorienting that many lost their way and perished within feet of their own home. By clinging to the guide rope, they arrived safely where they needed to be. Our lives also have disorienting blizzards—overwork, overcommitment, health and relationship issues that blow in unexpectedly—disconnecting us from our hope.

God extends to us the rope that orients us and guides us back to his presence. Who, or what, is at the other end of your rope? What are you battling? When you grab the guide rope, he forgives you for all the times you've dropped the rope or grabbed onto another. he loves you. You are forgiven.

---

## PRAYER

---

God, You hold all things, and work all things together for the good of those who love Jesus. I love your son, Jesus. I am filled with hope as I imagine you taking hold of the guide rope of my life. Forgive me for the times I have led. Forgive me for the ways I have carried rather than released. Forgive me for the times I have claimed victory when it was yours all along. By the power of the Holy Spirit, would you release my grip on the things that belong to you, and would you give me the strength to hold fast to you? Thank you for guiding me back to your presence.





---

# AGREE

---

REJOICE IN HOPE,  
BE PATIENT IN TRIBULATION, BE CONSTANT IN PRAYER.  
ROMANS 12:12

---

Right before Moses gave the instructions to Israel to build the tabernacle in the wilderness—some of the most specific and detailed directions recorded in scripture—God said this: “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8). It was that simple invitation from God: make room for me, and I will show up and fill it.

It would be easy to get stuck on what he said next: “Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you,” (verse 9) if only because the pattern was exacting and precise and daunting. But the invitation was make room for me. Some fifteen glorious chapters later, we read that the tabernacle was established, and God did, indeed, fill it with his presence.

The word “Amen” means “so be it.” In Hebrew it means certainty, truth, and verity. It is a statement of agreement and often comes at the end of a prayer. But what if we start with “amen”? Beth Guckenberger, author of *Start with Amen*, suggests that when we move “amen” to the beginning of our prayers, we are saying to God, “Whatever you are about to do, I am already in agreement of it.” When we agree with God in advance of his methods, he does what only he can do. When you make room for him to do what only he can do, he will fill it. He will show up.

---

## PRAYER

---

Start with amen and allow the Holy Spirit to rightly order your prayer: Amen. So be it. With certainty and truth I am in agreement with what you are up to, Father...





---

# REFLECT

---

IF I SAY, "SURELY THE DARKNESS WILL HIDE ME  
AND THE LIGHT BECOME NIGHT AROUND ME,"  
EVEN THE DARKNESS WILL NOT BE DARK TO YOU;  
THE NIGHT WILL SHINE LIKE THE DAY,  
FOR DARKNESS IS AS LIGHT TO YOU.

PSALM 139:11-12

---

The role that light plays in the whole process of growing something from seed is really quite important—essential, in fact. Without it, there is little hope of change for what's been planted. Yet too much light could scorch the tender leaves of a new sprout. Striking the balance is delicate, requires patience and the thoughtful placement of your plant, relative to the source of the light.

There is a reason why Jesus is called the Light of the World, and why we are invited to be light in the world. The darkness prevents growth, can cause dormancy, even lie to us about what we are seeing or not seeing. Light penetrates beneath the surface and cracks open the seeds, even in the darkness of the soil.

---

## PRAYER

---

Light of the World, you know all of me. You know what hides in the dark, and you know what the light exposes. You have called me to reflect your image, your light, to those around me. Help me to see me the way you see me. I don't want to hide in the dark. I want to live in the light. Speak your truth over my life, and help me to see myself as you see me so that my life is a true reflection of who you are.



---

# PRAISE

---

FOR THIS LIGHT MOMENTARY AFFLICTION IS PREPARING FOR US  
AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY BEYOND ALL COMPARISON,  
AS WE LOOK NOT TO THE THINGS THAT  
ARE SEEN BUT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN.  
2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18

---

Do you wonder what it was like for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem that day, under the shouts of “Hosanna!” cloaks paving his way, palms being swung as unto a king—the King, in fact? Yet only he knew, in those moments, where their praise was leading them. They weren’t wrong to declare hosanna and praise the Messiah. They just didn’t know all that the week would hold.

We know what’s coming on Friday. We have the full gospel story—the good news—yet it is so painful to call it good in light of the momentary affliction that prepared a way for us. In the same way that Jesus’ disciples, followers, friends and believers were looking to him as the one for whom they had waited, what was unseen would nearly shatter them a few days later.

As we look to the “things unseen,” do you feel a shift, know that what is being prepared for you is an “eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison”? We know how the story ends. Raise your praise and shout, “Hosanna!” What can you praise him for today? Not in spite of this light, momentary affliction, but because of the eternal weight of glory.

---

## PRAYER

---

Pray Psalm 27:13–14 as a declaration of your praise and hope:

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. I will wait for the Lord; I will be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.





---

# TESTIFY

---

“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,”  
DECLARES THE LORD, “PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU,  
PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.”

JEREMIAH 29:11

---

On Good Friday we remember the cost of our salvation. As a symbolic practice, we often nail our sins to a cross representing the burden Christ took on himself on our behalf. And in laying down our burdens, we are reminded of the freedom that we are afforded through the life, death and resurrection of our Jesus. We testify to the sacrifice, the cost of the cross, and that it was paid in full on our behalf.

But what if we testified to the cost of losing hope?

The Easter story is the magnificent and miraculous fulfillment of thousands of years of the prophecies, promises and hope of God's people. And brothers and sisters, it was this hope—*our Jesus*—that was nailed to the cross. And for all his friends knew, hope was lost.

Hebrews 6:19–20 reminds us that “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. he has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” If Jesus is our hope, what if the finished work of the cross is where our hope begins?

---

## PRAYER

---

Jesus, you paid a price that I could not afford. The price of my freedom was your life, and because of you, I have hope. Our hope is in you because of the finished work of the cross. And I will testify to my hope, to you, all of my days, out of a debt of gratitude for who you are, and who I am because of you. Thank you, Jesus.



---

# HOPE

---

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH  
ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING,  
SO THAT BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE.

ROMANS 15:13

---

According to Wikipedia, “hope is an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one’s life or the world at large.” As a verb, its definitions include: “expect with confidence” and “to cherish a desire with anticipation.”

*Expect with confidence. To cherish a desire with anticipation.*

Such confidence comes from belief that what we are expecting is reasonable, even if bold and unseen. Hope is not a destination but an active participation in the journey. Hope: to lament, meditate, forgive, agree, reflect, praise and testify to a saviour who was and is and is to come (Revelation 4:8).

Hope requires active participation in what is to come: belief that he is worthy of our expectant, confident, cherished anticipation. Hope conquered death. *Hope lives*. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, Hope lives in me! Hallelujah! Amen!

---

## PRAYER

---

Jesus, we praise you, the one who lives. You are who you say you are, and I am who you say I am because you did what only you could do. The hope I have in you is expectant and confident, cherishing and desiring with anticipation your triumphal return one day. I choose to hope. I choose to believe that my faith will give evidence to the hope by which I live and cast a light by the power of the spirit within me.

