

# HOW TO - RESPOND TO LIFE'S DISASTERS

ECCL. 8:14

"How To" Series

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**ECCL. 8:14 (NCV)** "Sometimes something useless happens on earth. Bad things happen to good people, and good things happen to Bad people."

**Ecclesiastes 8:14 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> *There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity.*

## HOW TO RESPOND TO TRAGEDY

### 1. RELEASE MY GRIEF.

**Matt. 5:4** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

### 2. RECEIVE FROM OTHERS.

"Carry each other's burdens ..." **Gal 6:2(NCV)** "By helping each other with your troubles, you obey the law of Christ."

**Heb 12:15 (LB)** "Look after each other so that not one of you will fail to find God's best blessings."

### 3. Refuse TO BE BITTER.

**Job 21:25 (GN)** "Some people have no happiness at all: they live and die with bitter hearts."

**Heb 12:15 (LB)** "Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you... it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives."

#### The antidote:

- Accept what cannot be changed.

**Job 11:13, 16** "...Reach out to God...then face the world again, firm and courageous..."

- Focus on what's left, not what's lost..

**1 Th. 5:18 (LB)** "No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you."

### 4. REMEMBER WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

**LK 12:15 (NCV)** "Jesus said... Life is not measured by how much one owns."

**1 Tim. 6:7 (NIV)** "We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it."

### 5. REFOCUS ON CHRIST.

**Jonah 2:7** "*When I had lost all hope, I turn my thoughts once more to the Lord.*"

## HOW?

#### 1) Read God's word.

**Psalms 119:143** "*Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your commands are my delight.*"

#### 2) Remember God's goodness.

**Psalms 27: 13-14** "*I would have despaired unless I believed I would see the goodness of the Lord. Be strong. Let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord.*"

#### 3) Rely on God's power.

**2 Corinthians 1:9** "*We saw how powerless we were to help ourselves but that was good. For then we put everything into the hands of God who alone could save us for He can even raise the dead.*"