

Life in the Aftermath: Embracing Weakness

Anita Manata

Part 1: Understanding

Psalm 30: 5 - For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

John 16:33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

1. Suffering is real.

2. God is omnipotent even over suffering.

3. Life in the aftermath is in part recognizing weakness.

4. Life in the aftermath is learning how to respond to others who may over or under recognize the weakness.

Part 2: Biblical Hope = God's Intentional Story of Your Life

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

1. Consider the Apostle Paul's suffering and response.

2. Consider the Apostle Paul's aftermath.

3. Biblical hope is found in being found in Christ.

4. Biblical hope is found in God's glory.

Part 3: Gospel Driven Change

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. Knowing and responding to God's love and perfect law.

2. Ambassadors of Christ