LIVING THROUGH GRIEF WITH SPIRITUALITY

with Pictured Words of Comfort from Jeremiah the Prophet

Karen S. Roberts

Living Through Grief

With Spirituality

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to all of you who are going through difficulties and trials. God knows what is happening and is reaching out to you with His love, comfort, and hope.

It is my prayer that these beautiful Scripture verses and pictures will speak to your heart and bring a sense of God's presence that will bring you peace.

May you discover the growth in spirituality that comes from experiencing God's comfort in the midst of living through your grief and pain. I pray that the prophet Jeremiah's life and words inspire you.

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Foreword

Do you ever wonder how some people who have gone through grief and loss can come through it expressing how they became spiritually stronger through their experience?

Let's face it. Some people go through losing a relative or friend to death, divorce or misunderstandings, and become bitter. Or maybe they lost a job, a house, or their health and have blamed God for it.

On the other hand, some people flourish and talk about how God met them and worked in their lives through their painful experiences. These folks have discovered a growth in spirituality as they lived through grief and emotional pain.

Even when we don't understand why losses are happening in our lives, we can know that God is a God of love. He is not causing these miseries in our lives, but He is allowing them in order to give us an opportunity to grow in our trust and relationship with Him.

By reading the book of Job we come to realize that it is Satan who brings afflictions, illnesses, and tragedies into the lives of people. However he can only do this within the boundaries of what God allows. So we ask, "Why does God allow these experiences that cause grief?"

There are no easy answers. However for those who put their trust in God and allow Him to bring about His perfect work in their lives, spiritual growth happens and comfort comes.

Recently in our community a little girl whose body was ravaged by cancer, had a huge effect, not just on those who knew her, but through those who learned of her through the news media and Facebook. She was known for expressing joy and love to those around her, in spite of enduring pain and difficult medical procedures for her brain and spinal cancer. God used her story to tug at people's hearts.

Although grieving for her suffering, her parents and siblings held onto their faith and spoke positive words regarding the joys of their family life and the touch of God on their lives through this experience.

As I write this, I'm sad to say that this precious child passed away. Her funeral was attended by hundreds who were touched by her life and by the strength that her family showed throughout their ordeal. Their story inspired many others who were going through their own trials.