



When Clouds  
**DARKEN**  
Your Sky



Did you ever toss a coin into a wishing well?  
Stack stones? Wish upon a star?

Maybe you did, maybe you didn't, yet all of us likely wish and  
hope our dreams can come true.

But perhaps clouds have darkened your sky. Has some difficulty  
derailed your dreams?

Of course we want blue skies, not dark ones...but dark clouds in-  
evitably come to us all...

The question is then, what can we do?



## Fierce Reality

Deep down we just want to be happy, right? So, we search for good things in life; family and friends, love and home, wealth and health. But even though we may find these things, any of them can be lost—so easily. Then we are left feeling empty, alone, scarred or scared. In the blink of an eye, we can lose so much.

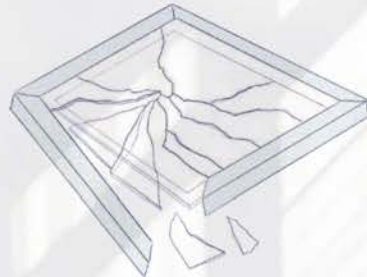
Maybe with a gaping hole in our life we ask, “Why? Why all this agony and uncertainty? Is there no escape? No reason? No meaning?” The honest answer is; no one knows for sure...but there is a very important factor that you probably suspected... something is wrong...

## Broken World

Yes, life may be brutal. Because this is a broken world; depression, disease, disability, death, disaster, divorce... There is no escape and no question that each of us will face one or more of these someday...

Maybe you are there right now.

It seems ironic then that the Bible says, that when God created the world, it was "very good".



So, what happened? This does not feel good!

The Bible explains that the problem is; humanity turned away from God, just like a rebellious child turns away from a wonderful parent, and because of that, the world got broken.

Sure, there still is a lot of good left, but things are definitely broken, including our souls...and each of us is in need of His healing touch...yes, all of us are running from or ignoring God most of the time. Because of that we all need to come back to Him...



## Coming Home

Home is a wonderful thing...and maybe deep down, you have always hoped there might be a home for your soul... not just for this life, but a home that lasts forever. The Bible reveals that God Himself is our hearts' home and without Him we have an emptiness that cannot be filled with anything else.

Yet, somehow, it's easy to live an entire distracted lifetime and miss Him completely.

But the good news is that He did not ignore us—far from it—He came to rescue us and bring us back.



We celebrate Christmas, when God Himself came to Earth. He was born as Jesus, to live a perfect life —and then to die the death that we each deserve—in our place.

It's mind blowing—the eternal and infinite God endured the ultimate handicap of being crushed into the form of a helpless child. He lived a lifetime, and suffered death, to save you, and bring you home.



It was an unbelievably terrible death. He was beaten, whipped, stripped, spit on, nailed to the cross, and left there to die.

Why did Jesus allow all that? For love of you. Because He sees you, He always has, and to Him you are precious. Though He never really should have, He gave it all for you.

But His death was not the end of the story. Three days after He died, He came back to life! He conquered the curse you face to bring you to Himself!

And now He offers you the greatest opportunity of a lifetime and treasure beyond comparison...

## Crazy Awesome Gift

As small as we may be, God never considers us insignificant. And because of this, Jesus offers you a gift. This gift is something you can never lose, and you cannot afford to miss. To understand this gift He makes you three promises...



## Real Relief

**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Walk with me and work with me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

Matthew 11:28-30

Do you need relief? Are you drained or tired? What does Jesus say to do? And what does He offer?

We don't need to get our act together to come to God—we come to God and He brings things together; He heals, He recreates, He is where we find real rest.

## New Level of Life

**I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.**

John 10:10b-11

Have you ever considered that life might be a lot more than you know? That there is something awesome you might be missing? What does Jesus offer us in the verse above?

Jesus says He gives us “life”—and He adds that He gives a life that is completely full to the max!

What does the verse say He did for us to get this life?







## Inner Overflow

**Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**

John 4:13-14

In life, aren't we constantly looking to quench our thirst? It's a life of always needing something from the outside. But Jesus says He gives us "water"—and it bubbles up like a spring, fresh, filling us from the inside—and overflowing to even others—Now that is life on a whole different scale! This is the awesome gift, and the gift is His full and eternal life.

## The Hearts Home

God Himself is — and always has been — patiently waiting for you to come. Right now, you can come and open your heart to Him.

It's alright if you don't understand everything. We never will have all the answers. But without Him, we have no future. Without Him, we miss out on what life is all about.

He is knocking at the door of your heart:  
Will you open your heart to Him? You alone can open your heart's door. You can receive Jesus with a simple prayer like this:



*“God, I think I am finally starting to understand, I need you. Jesus, thank You for what You suffered for me. Even though I didn’t know You, You gave Your all for me. Forgive me for ignoring You. I am sorry for so many things I have done. But thank You so much for allowing me to come to You. And that You forgive me of everything and offer a new existence and life that continues forever. I open my heart to You. Please come into my life and heal me, help me to get through this pain and struggle, today, tomorrow, and beyond. I want to follow You and know You more and never be alone. Amen.”*

Would you like to pray this prayer and receive Jesus? Let’s read the prayer again, and this time let the words be from your heart.

If you have prayed this prayer, you have opened your heart to the One who completely understands suffering and fully understands you— and who always has. You can now start a lifetime of knowing Him and being with Him, you are finally home.

So, now what?

## That Same Road...But Not Alone

You may still be on that road of difficulty and pain, but something very significant has changed. You are never alone. Jesus has promised to always be with you, forever. He may change your situation, He may not. But He has promised to always be there, and He knows all about suffering because He suffered the ultimate for you.



Remember, He is always there, so open yourself to Him. Every day, and throughout each day, come to Him, trust Him, and know Him better.

So how can you know Him?

- Begin reading the Book of John in the Bible.
- Talk to Him.
- Take time to be with others who follow Him.

And be sure to visit the following site:







Remember, He is your place of peace ...

**I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.**

John 16:33



... and nothing can separate you from His love!

**“... neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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.”**

Romans 8:38-39

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Concept: A & J Meeko

Art : Iris Design

Graphics: New Life Ministries



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**GospelShare Series** Clouds