

Gospel Thought #8:

“True joy arises from a heart of love and forgiveness.”

2 Cor. 2:3 ~ This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be the joy of you all.

Gospel Thought #7:

“Absorbing pain and suffering is a means of knowing Christ more.”

Phil. 3:10 ~ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

Gospel Thought #6:

“Forgiveness is costly/suffering.”

Eph. 1:7 ~ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses

“Everyone who forgives... goes through a death... and experiences nails, blood, sweat, and tears... Forgiveness is costly suffering... forgiveness at first always feels far worse than bitterness... Forgiveness means refusing to make them pay for what they did. However, to refrain from lashing out at someone when you want to do so with all your being is agony. It is a form of suffering. You not only suffer the original loss of happiness, reputation, and opportunity, but now you forgo the consolation of inflicting the same on them. You are absorbing the debt, taking the cost of it completely on yourself instead of taking it out on the other person. It hurts terribly. Many people would say it feels like a kind of death.”

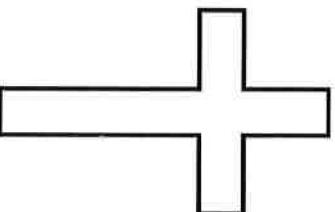
Tim Keller, [The Reason for God](#)

Gospel Thought #1:

“Christ has suffered as I am suffering right now, and infinitely more so, which means I am never alone in any pain.”

Isa. 53:4 ~ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried;

Heb. 4:15 ~ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses...



Gospel Thought #5:

“Christ has accomplished my forgiveness and justification at the cross.”

Eph. 1:7 ~ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Matt. 18:32 ~ “I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.”

Gospel Thought #2:

“Sometimes God purposes that those whom He loves deeply be painfully sinned against.”

Matt. 3:17 ~ “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

Acts 2:23 ~ this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God

Gospel Thought #3:

“God the Father can be trusted completely on the receiving end of any wrongdoing.”

1 Pet. 2:23 ~ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Gospel Thought #4:

“I have committed greater sins against God than any person has ever committed against me.”

Matt. 7:3 ~ “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

Isa. 53:5 ~ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities;