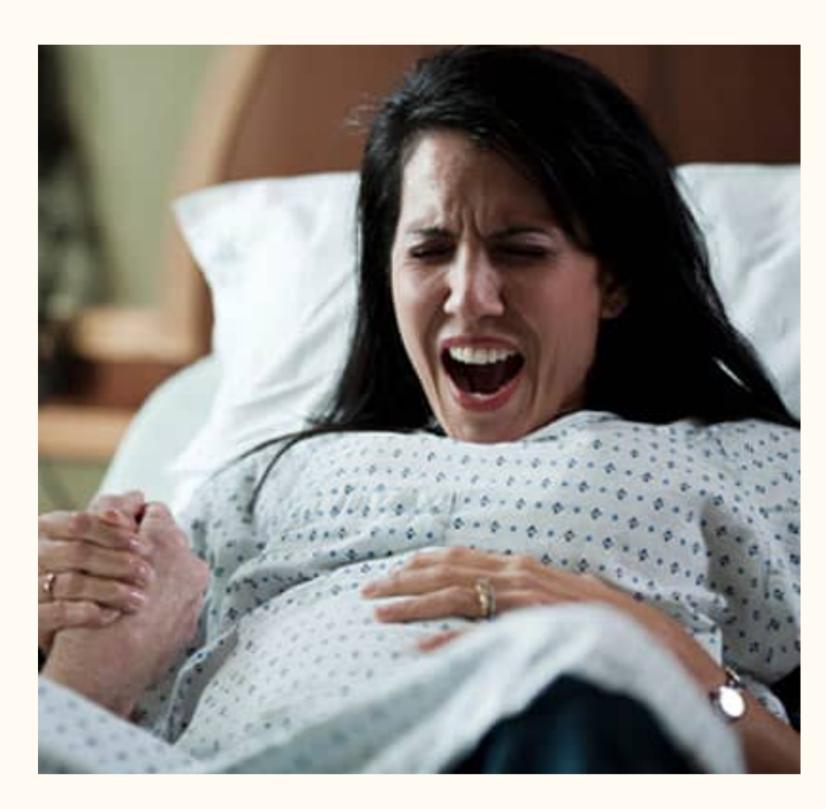


SCRIPTURE READING 10HX 11:1 - 4.4.

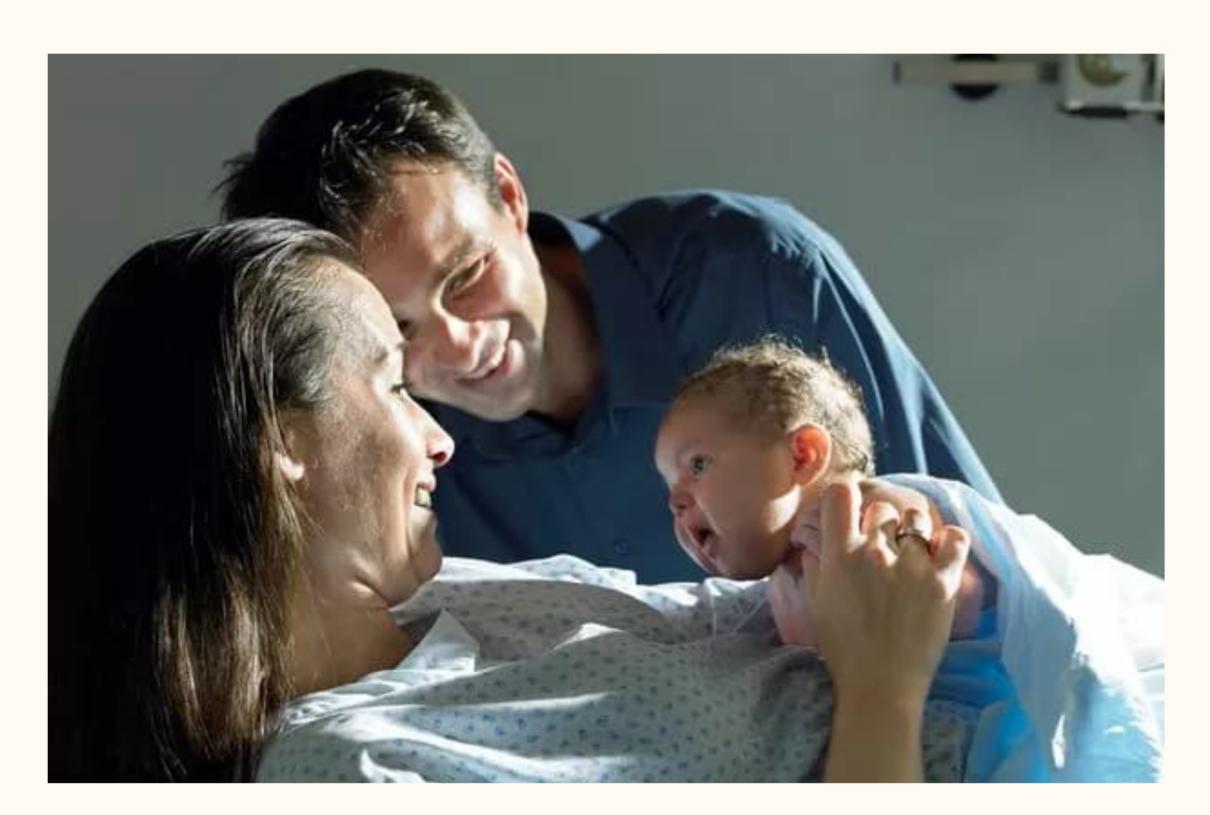




The quickest emotional turnaround



"I'm going to kill you"



"It wasn't that bad."

Pain is not everlasting.

- 1. What makes pain last is its moral dimension: grief, injustice, indignity, loss, etc.
- 2. If God can punish and restore the moral dimension of suffering, pain no longer holds when it ends. (like labor)
- 3. Then the question is not about injustice but glory. For us: whether it will happen or not—the question of faith.

God shows:

Revealing His glory is more loving than alleviating suffering.

Another way:

God's main gift to suffering humanity is glory, not relief.

...and He is right.

Glory

The **full greatness** of a particular subject, **shown** for what it is.

For God: His manifold perfections displayed as worthiness and rightly evoking faith.

'God's glory' is more like 'beauty' than like 'basketball'. —John Piper

Glories in Lazarus' death...

Jesus is the resurrection and the Life Jesus is filled with compassion and comfort for sufferers Jesus faces every danger with all courage for us Jesus suffers with, for, and most. Jesus makes faith the means of experiencing the glory.

God shows...
POINT 1:

Love chooses revealing glory OWer alleviating pain

John 11:3 – 6

So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

Quick Fix: Stopping Pain

Universal Good: Revealing God's Glory

Lazarus was going to die again. Healing is no cure for suffering, but seeing God's glories is a remedy for all human anxiety. God shows...
POINT 2:

Raith choses pursuing glory over paralizing uncertainty

John 11:7 – 11

Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

JESUS IS THE LIGHT

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

THERE IS URGENCY

John 9:3 – 5

Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that **the works of God** might be **displayed** in him.

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

BECOME A LIGHT YOURSELF ACTING IN HIS URGENCY

John 12:35 – 36

So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

God shows...
POINT 3:

Hope chooses discovering glory OVet avoiding death

John 11:14 – 16

So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Hope will not be denied.

Lethally Dangerous

Possibility for Glory





2023 takeaways:

- 1. The permanance of your pain is not in the pain itself.
- 2. God is offering you glory, not relief.
- 3. Love chooses glory, not just relief.
- 4. Faith acts by its light, not out of fear.
- 5. Hope is willing to risk life, to see glory.
- Jesus is the embodiment of all the glories. Believe.

