## HOPE WHEN YOUR HEART IS BREAKING WLS 2024 Ron Hutchcraft

Lots of losses . . . lots of sadness. Ready for hope.

Loss ------  $\rightarrow$  Grieving ------  $\rightarrow$  <u>Choices</u>!

When you lose someone or something of great value, you can't stay the same.

When tragedy hits, the question is, "What kind of different will you be?"

Hammers, hurts and hope . . .

A hammer can <u>build</u> or it can <u>destroy</u>. Which one will it be? It's not the <u>hammer</u> that decides. It's what you <u>do</u> with the hammer!

There are choices that lead to <u>hope</u> and healing. And choices that lead to more <u>hurt</u> and <u>loss</u>.

We'll look at ten choices that lead to hope when your heart is breaking!

Along the way, wee'll explain why <u>Jesus</u> has been the Difference-Maker in our darkest valleys.

- He gets our grief. Isaiah 53:3 Hebrews 4:15, 16
- The battle in a garden Luke 22:41-44

Hope has a name . . . here's the mind-blowing reason why . . . I Peter 1:3 Not hope the wishful thinking . . . the floating idea . . . but hope that's <u>alive!</u> Backed up by a <u>resurrection!</u>

## Ten Choices That Lead to Hope When Your Heart Is Breaking

1. Choose <u>sharing</u> your grief, not <u>stuffing</u> it. Matthew 5:4

- 2. Choose <u>facing</u> your grief instead of <u>fleeing</u> it.
- 3. Choose to let people <u>in</u> instead of keeping them <u>out</u>. Genesis 2:18 Romans 12:15
- 4. Choose to focus on their <u>life</u>, not their <u>loss</u>.
- Choose to ask the right question.
  Not "<u>why?</u>". But "How can God <u>use</u> this?" Proverbs 19:21 Romans 8:28

If you're going to get the pain, get the point!

 Choose to reach out to <u>others</u> instead of being all about <u>yourself</u>. Proverbs 11:25

Hope for them = hope for you "Who <u>needs</u> me today?"

- Choose to focus on the <u>living</u> ones, not just the <u>lost</u> one.
  II Corinthians 1:3, 4
- 8. Choose a <u>soft</u> heart, not a <u>hard</u> heart. Ephesians 4:32
- 9. Choose to run <u>to</u> God, not <u>from</u> God. Psalm 34:18 Psalm 42:5 Psalm 46:1-3; 7 Psalm 147:3, 4
- 10. Choose to let <u>Jesus</u> bring <u>healing</u> to your broken heart!

There is one hope you cannot <u>lose</u>! Hebrews 6:19

An amazing prayer - Romans 15:13.

God can recycle your <u>hurt</u> into hope for other broken hearts!