

Maggie's Passage

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:4-8 ESV

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me--practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9 ESV

When Maggie's father died she believed that she needed to find her "real" mother. She left her adoptive family without telling anyone where she was going. She ended up trapped in a terrible lifestyle and was too ashamed to return home. She found a Bible in the motel room where she was staying. When she read the Bible her faith started to return and she found a way to escape the mess she was in.

Have you ever made wrong decisions that brought pain to those who love you?

Maggie felt like nobody cared about her. She felt dirty and worthless because of the life she had been living. Grace said, "I know you believe in God, because I saw you reading the good book." Maggie replied, "At this point I don't see how He could have any faith in me." Grace helped Maggie see that God loved her even though she had made many mistakes. Grace helped Maggie trust in God and trust in people again.

Have you ever felt like no one cared about you? God loves you and wants to help you.

When Maggie was a baby her birth mother told Maggie she didn't want her. When Maggie was eighteen and found her birth mother she said again that she never wanted to see Maggie. Maggie was in a lot of emotional pain because she felt like nobody wanted her. Even though Maggie's birth mother didn't want her, she was dearly loved by her adoptive family.

What kinds of things cause you pain? Where do you go when you want relief?

When Maggie went to the center to help other homeless people she said, "I didn't realize how good I had it." Grace said, "It opens your eyes." Later Grace said, "Life goes on for all of us." Maggie said, "Just like that?" Grace replied, "Just like that." Sometimes we need to just go on. When things don't work out the way we planned we need to trust that God will walk with us through the pain and disappointment.

Do you appreciate those who care about you? Is there something harmful you need to walk away from?

When Max lost his wife and daughter in a car accident his life fell apart. He felt like he had no hope. He saw that Maggie was just trying to survive as well. Maggie said that she had learned that "we're not alone in our suffering, and if we open ourselves up to God He will give us comfort." Max confessed to God that he was sorry for his anger and resentment.

Do you have anger and resentment towards anyone? Ask God to help you let it go.

Life does go on. When we encounter difficult situations we should never give up. God has a good plan for our lives. The world will always be filled with pain and problems. Jesus said, *"In Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33 ESV When we follow Him and trust Him, He can give us peace, even in the middle of problems.

God will help you if you will let Him. Ask Him to come into your heart and life.

Dear Lord, we confess that many times we go our own way, trying to solve our own problems, instead of trusting in You. Take away our resentments and anger. Fill our lives with Your Holy Spirit. Give us peace and joy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.