

# New Beginnings

## Love: Lamentations 3



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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### **There is much confusion about how a Christian can experience the presence and comfort of the Lord.**

While our Lord Jesus clearly said to the disciples, *"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come"* (John 16:12-13 NIV), the "how" of this function stirs much debate. When this confusion and debate descends upon a believer crawling through his or her own unique tragedy, the promised comfort of God can be lost...lost because God's loved one simply does not know how to see God at work. As a result, the tragedy is aggravated rather than alleviated. It's a story we see quite often in the pages of the Bible. Sometimes the problem can feel absolutely overwhelming. The Prophet Jeremiah went through such an experience. We may find ourselves in similar situations...and, like Jeremiah on the verge of hopelessness, we might find ourselves wanting to shout, "My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the Lord" (Lamentations 3:18).

This is a monumental tragedy, because if God cannot help, who can? So, there is our basic dilemma...and it calls for an answer....

Is God enough?  
Is the Lord sufficient?  
Can he actually deliver me from despair?

If so, how?  
How do we know he's with us?  
What is the evidence that he's with us?

If time allowed, we could look at a hundred different passages in Scripture to find the answers, but this time around I'd like to focus on that passage penned by Jeremiah...because his anguish was so intense. It drips with real time agony. It jumps out of history to meet us right here...right here in the depths of whatever hurt or hate or hindrance we may face. We can find it Lamentations 3: 1-24...

Jeremiah learned, Jeremiah knew—even in the face of horrific suffering...suffering that actually came from the hands of God—that he was not alone. Jeremiah was not abandoned. God was enough for him. He had the evidence. The evidence not only supported the truth, it gave witness to the presence of God.

**Big Idea:** Central to experiencing the forever new hope and compassion of the Lord is his real time reminders of his truth and his presence.

**Background:** Jeremiah 1:4-10



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