



HE CALLS US BACK

June 2016

And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and let your hearts be filled with God alone to make them pure and true to him.

James 4:8 TLB

Do you ever get stuck in memories from the past? Do you ever repeatedly turn back to bad things that happened to you? I'm sure many of us must be living with such struggles.

Our emotional pain could be caused by any number of problems: a friend letting us down in a way we had never imagined possible; a loved one dying before we had a chance to say what we needed to say; the break-up of a romantic relationship that we had thought would last forever. Losses of all kinds can bring such seemingly irredeemable pain to our hearts. But it must be especially so with the loss of a person we loved.

We search for a binding up of the wounds—for a soothing of the soul, for a shoulder to cry on. But the tears within will not let up. Will anything at all help us deal with this?

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Talking to a supportive friend helps much. It's important to share with someone who cares about us—a person who can console us and help us realize that we're not alone.

Yet I've found that a much better place to go with such pain is to our Father God.

When we're hurting and when we go to him with it, he calls us back to himself. He draws us away from the pain, releasing us from its clutches. He calls us back to the refuge he offers. Back to his compassionate love and care. In his arms we can find peace. In his arms we find comfort and healing.

Repeatedly, day by day, God calls us back, reminding us that he's there. Reminding us that we're not alone. If we let him, he who fully understands and feels our suffering, will always come close to help us carry our pain.

When we turn to God and pray with an open heart, letting him know how we feel . . . and when we trust that he hears us, he *will* come close. He and his everlasting love *will* stay with us. Daily he brings us back, giving us his peace.

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