

**Tears
on a
Windshield**

On a recent morning, I was listening to James Dobson's family talk. This is my weekday custom. I get a breakfast biscuit at a local restaurant, and I listen to Family Talk while I enjoy my biscuit food and coffee. On most days, there is a corner in the parking lot with evergreen hedges that provides a perfect spot for listening and meditating. My arrival is after a two-hour exercise regimen. Thus, at breakfast, I am seeking both physical and spiritual nourishment.

My F-150 Ford pick-up with its nice audio system provides a very good physical setting. The windshield of the pickup was pivotal to how the Lord spoke with me this morning. This particular morning, Dr. Dobson was speaking with four guests who were associated with cancer in children. They had varying stories. One was a very small child's diagnosis with a rare cancer that ended in death. Another child's story involved diagnosis and remission with reoccurrence. This story also involved the love of a sibling who was a match for bone marrow transfer. A third child's story involved diagnosis and treatment. Thankfully, the treatment was very effective, and ultimately the child was declared cancer free.

The fourth person was a nurse who had worked with children afflicted with cancer; she had started a support program for cancer children and their families.

As usual, Dr. Dobson was a very communicative and compassionate interviewer. The guests were very effective in their communication about a most excruciating subject -- their child's diagnosis of cancer. As I listened to the program, I thought about how precious my children and grandchildren are to me and my wife. Listening to this program caused great empathy for these parents and others who have gone and are going through this horrendous situation.

As I listened, from time to time tears would run down my cheek. Then by the leading of the Holy Spirit, I became aware that the gentle rain on the windshield of my pickup had produced streaming tears. Then a voice within me spoke: God knows our pain and our tears. We know this because; the tears of Jesus are recorded in the Bible -- he wept because of the death of his friend Lazarus. I also recalled that Jesus said on earth I will never leave you nor forsake you. Moreover, in heaven, he will wipe away every tear.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4)

So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. But David found strength in the Lord his God. (1 Samuel 30:4, 6)

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)