

4/15/59

Now when death comes to a loved one who is saved we should of course rejoice that he has gone into the presence of the Lord, and yet we need to go through the experience ourselves in order to be able to understand how others feel, and their situation. I'll never forget when my father died. My father when he was about my age was taken ill, and he had a number of various illnesses which my mother said would have been enough, any one of them, to have killed an ordinary person, but he had tremendous life and vitality, and he lived for twenty years after that, suffering under one difficulty after another and eventually losing his sight and a good bit of his hearing. And for the last ten or fifteen years of that time I never left Los Angeles where he lived with any certainty that I would see him again. I always thought that the Lord might just take him at any time, and yet when the day came that I received a telegram he had died, it was as if I had been run over with a truck, it was as if I'd had a broken neck. It seemed like a shock as if he had never been sick in his life, such was the impact of it. I think it was six weeks before I could hardly look at my (7 3/4) without the tears coming into my eyes, so deep was the feeling, so deep was the shock, of the departure of my father, though I knew that he had gone right directly into the presence of the Lord.

We want to realize what these experiences mean to ~~the~~ people, when we try to help them in dealing with the situation. Light words will not satisfy. You can't quote a few verses and think that that's going to meet their need. What they need is in the verses, but it takes more than merely quoting a verse. Or merely saying a light word. There's a shock there, there is something that only time can only altogether heal. But oh what a comfort it is to realize that if they knew the Lord they have gone ~~to-be~~ right into His presence. That if they know Christ they are in Him in fullness of joy, that they are having happiness such as they never could have in this life. With all the weaknesses of this life, with all the frailties, with all the difficulties of this life (8 3/4) and they are happy with