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Infertility: God's Forsaken Children?

A new baby enters the world and opens her eyes for the first time. She is certainly a blessing beyond anything we could manufacture. What a wonderful gift! But what about the other side? What about the couple, clasping hands and crying out with their souls, pleading for a gift that is so freely granted to others? It appears like God has withheld one of life's most fundamental blessings, but Scripture shows us that his promise of life is farther reaching than biological children. Most people know someone who suffers from infertility. For all appearances, it looks like God has forsaken them. This made me wonder, because my family has eight children, all with minimal health issues. Why would He bless us so wonderfully, and not give others the gift of a child?

Infertility affects millions of people globally. 17.5% of the adult population experiences infertility worldwide. That's 1 in 6 people! (World Health Organization). This issue leaves people feeling isolated and removed from the rest of the world that relishes in the more obvious signs of God's gifts. Some turn from God. They make human attempts that they may have life, be it IVF, surrogates, or medically assisted conception. And as much of a gift as the products of these methods are, they still raise questions about our role versus God's.

He has not gifted you something that seems so fundamental to being *you*. Yet, just as in all strife, we look to the Word, which says in John 10:10, "the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." (*Bible-ESV*) This is familiar to us all, regardless of who you are. It leaves us in a

place of despair, but Christ gives us the Gospel as the verse continues with, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (*Bible-ESV*) Christ promises life. Even when all signs point to you being stranded, even when all signs point to isolation, His life remains with us. It might seem contradictory, we are promised life, and yet, some are not given such a blessing, in abundance or otherwise. Yet, He still offers life to us in other ways: the gift of adoption and most importantly, life everlasting. My aunt and uncle portray this beautifully. They were unable to have biological children, so they became the godparents of many, including me! Another example of this is Deborah, who never had biological children, and yet she was referenced as the “mother of Israel” in Judges 5:7 (*Bible-ESV*). Even though she could not birth children, she was still a mother to millions. These are remarkable role models of your part in the world even when it looks different from what you might have expected.

Christ died that we might have life; he fulfills this promise in unexpected ways. He has not forsaken you, He has not forgotten about you, He will never leave you. Even though it may seem lonely, there is hope in that He will not forget His promises. Even when you watch the new family with an amazing blessing, and know that this cannot be you, you can trust in the fact that God fulfills His promises, and there are *certainly* other ways to be blessed by Him.

One beautiful example is adoption. Ephesians 1:5 says, “In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will...” (*Bible-ESV*). In this way, adoption of any kind is an image of the Church. We are adopted into Christ, and so we can copy this model as an ideal. Whether you are legally adopting or emotionally adopting, there are ways to nurture children without stepping into God’s role.

But above all, John 10:10 portrays the promise that with or without children, He has died for us, and we are saved by Him. No earthly blessing, not even the gift of a child, can compare to this greater gift.

Whether you are admiring the models that others present in your community, or you are worried about your future. We look to Scripture, where God promises that they *will* have life, through Him. God's promise of life is not limited to biological children. His plan might very well contradict your own, but His promise remains: due to Christ we are *never* forgotten, *never* forsaken, and *never* without life.

Works Cited:

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