179. REMEMBERING IN PRAYER - THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Good morning, Grace Harbor – it's Dan. Happy Thursday!

This week, we've been reflecting on All Saints Day and remembering those we love who have died – naming them, giving thanks, and telling their stories.

One of the questions you might have, both kids and adults alike, is: where do we go when we die? Or, what happens after we die?

The truth is that different Christian traditions have different ideas about how to answer this question. And that's because the Bible seems clear about certain details and less clear about others.

One of my favorite explanations comes from an Anglican bishop named N. T. Wright. He's the one who wrote God's Big Picture Bible Storybook, which is a children's Bible I've recommended on the podcast before. He likes to say that the Bible doesn't say much about life after death, but it says a lot about life *after* life after death.

What does he mean by this? Well, Christians believe that after Jesus died and rose from the dead, he returned to heaven while also promising to come back one day and set everything right. When this happens, God will restore creation – including us – to the way God always intended it to be. And just like God raised Jesus from the dead, the Bible tells us that we will be made alive in Christ, and

we'll all be together again. That's a real thing that'll happen one day, and it is *the big* turning point. And so, there are two periods of time – the time until this happens and the time after this happens.

The end of the Bible gives us a beautiful picture of what it'll be like after Jesus returns and all is set right. Heaven and earth will become one. The second to last chapter of the Bible tells us that God will wipe away every tear from our eyes, death will be no more, and there will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore.

But what about the time between now and when Jesus returns? What happens to everyone who dies during this time period – people like Brie's grandmother and my grandfather? The Bible doesn't give us many details, but it is *very* consistent in saying this one thing: they are *with* Jesus.

Well, Thursday is the day we go deeper in our focus on prayer, and one way Christians have always remembered people they love is by praying for them by name. Since we trust our lives to Jesus, talking to Jesus in prayer is a way of honoring them and keeping their memory alive.

This reminds me of the practice we learned from Mister Rogers back in September. He kept a handwritten list of names that he prayed for every day. It included family, friends, co-workers, and just about everyone he met. He would simply read down the list slowly, offering up each name to God. And once you were on the list, you never came off.

My guess is that he could picture each face or maybe would remember something about their interaction. And because he did this every day, he was keeping these memories alive day after day.

For our time of prayer today, I want to revisit this practice ourselves. I'll start the prayer and then leave space for you to simply name people you want to remember. They might be people who have died, but you can name anyone really. Then I'll close out the prayer, but if you need more time, feel free to pause the podcast. I'll be right here when you get back.

Ok, go ahead and get comfortable, and if you want to, you can close your eyes and fold your hands.

Dear God, we thank you that we can trust you with our lives and the lives of the people we love. At this time, we offer up to you the names of people that we care about and want to remember in prayer.

[PAUSE]

We thank you that you know, love, and remember these and everyone – both the living and those who have died. We ask that you would continue to care for them and us, as you promised. Amen.

Ok, Grace Harbor, have a great Thursday, and I'll catch you tomorrow.

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