



# **Shattered Dreams: God's Unexpected Pathway to Joy**

*Larry Crabb*

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## **Shattered Dreams: God's Unexpected Pathway to Joy** Larry Crabb

Learn how to look through life's tragedies and see the lavish blessings God has for you. The Holy Spirit uses the pain of shattered dreams to help us discover our desire for God, to help us begin dreaming the highest dream. They are ordained opportunities for the Spirit first to awaken, then to satisfy our highest dream. ~~  
Dr. Larry Crabb

## **Shattered Dreams: God's Unexpected Pathway to Joy Details**

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# From Reader Review Shattered Dreams: God's Unexpected Pathway to Joy for online ebook

## Mary Ann says

What I'm learning...

"Something bad happens. I hurt. I feel unhappy. I long to feel good. I ask God for help. I am resolved to feel better. I do whatever I can to make at least a few dreams come true. **That is the way of the flesh.** Something bad happens. I hurt. I feel unhappy. I long to feel good. But I trust God. His pleasure matters more than mine. But His pleasure includes mine. I believe that. So I abandon myself to His pleasure. I live to please Him. I work hard and live responsibly and strive to put balance in my life because that pleases Him. Making Him feel good is a higher priority than making me feel good. And somehow inevitably, at some point, I discover joy. **That is the way of the Spirit.**" pg 154-155

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## Laura Betters says

I found it mediocre at best. There were some reasonable thoughts - but they seemed obvious to me, (joy is not the same as happiness...pain points us to Christ because we need him most when we are hurting...etc.), while other points seemed to complicate the thesis he was trying to prove.

And my first problem is with his thesis: "Shattered Dreams are necessary for spiritual growth."

I disagree. BROKENNESS is the necessity for spiritual growth...a broken and contrite heart. While a shattered dream MAY lead to brokenness, it is not a 'given.' They ARE NOT the same thing.

I have known people with broken and contrite hearts who have never had a shattered dream. They are simply broken over their sin and separation from a holy God. The sad thing is that many people with shattered dreams never reach that same conclusion.

So MY conclusion (after losing my mom as a young child):

I am not in need of Christ because my heart is grieving...though it may be a by product. I am in need of the savior because I am a sinner.

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## Matt says

This book was a really interesting meditation on Naomi in the book of Ruth and the role of suffering in the Christian life. I enjoyed the parts about Ruth and Naomi the most, and appreciated the way the book rejected the notion that Christianity should bring wealth and comfort. The book also had intriguing thoughts about how one can strengthen a relationship with God even in suffering. I guess the three stars are because I find it difficult to praise suffering as much as the author seems to. I'm all for recognizing the ways that suffering can make us grow, but is it as necessary (and even desirable) to suffer as the author suggests? I don't know that that's really what God is hoping for...

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## **Carmen says**

I received this book through LibraryThing's Early Reviewers program and I wasn't that excited. I find many Christian self-help books to be formulaic and oversimplified. Might I also point out that Christian self-help is a moronic classification since Christianity is all about Christ working in people unable to save themselves. So it was with great trepidation that I cracked open the cover and read the Author's Note and Introduction. "Not bad," I thought, "but I don't hold out much hope for the rest."

The rest blew me away. It was the antithesis of self-help, the flip side of the prosperity gospel, the inverse of American Christianity. There are no steps to follow. There is simply an attitude shift and a different view of problems. This is not a way to become happy but a way to find God.

It reminded me of Revelations 3:17,18 - "Because you say, 'I am rich and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see."

Ten out of ten bookmarks.

<http://toomanybooknotenoughtime.blogs...>

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## **Matt Burgess says**

We led a community group in our neighborhood. On September 17, 2007, a couple in our group lost their 11 month old baby in an accident at home. We grieved, we prayed, we celebrated life and then we listened as our group wanted to understand what had happened in relationship to God. So, we began a study of Dr. Larry Krabb's book Shattered Dreams. A roller coaster ride of emotion, enlightenment and human experience commenced and for almost three months we worked through understanding shattered dreams.

From the outset Dr. Krabb's candid and often difficult writing produced frustration and opposition to the ideas presented. Several comments and ideas were presented in the first few chapters that challenged our core beliefs and left us bitter but in wonder. At several points I thought about dropping the study altogether considering the reactions of everyone including myself, but I hoped that by continuing we would eventually come to understand God better than we ever had. That hope became a reality.

As we moved through chapter after chapter we began to understand exactly what Dr. Krabb meant in those introductory comments. Through transparent exploration of our experiences we realized what sounded audacious was actually true, and what was originally dismissed as ridiculous became our accepted philosophy going forward.

At some point in your life you will experience shattered dreams...some smaller than others...but it will happen. Read this book to understand them now. Read this book to be prepared. Read this book to understand God's relationship to us in the midst of shattered and completed dreams.

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### **Donna says**

This book really challenged the way I pray and how I see the difficulties that our family faces. Finished it and then immediately read the whole book again and took notes.

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### **Joanna Cook says**

I gave this book 5 stars because it was life changing. Embracing shattered dreams and all the grief and loss that comes along with that doesn't seem like the pathway to joy nor does culture see it that way. However, Larry Crab does a wonderful job at helping us see how these can indeed bring us to joy by drawing us nearer to God. I think everyone should read this book because we have all experienced suffering in our lives and need hope that there is more!

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### **Pam Leeper (Kutella) says**

I have come back to this book at several points in my life. Resetting realistic expectations but remaining optimistic in the unwavering love of God.

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### **Heidi says**

(Can I give a book 6 stars? If so, this one would have 6.)

Generally, I'm not a Larry Crabb fan. But, like any believer does, his faith, through his personal experiences which have drawn Him closer to the Lord, have deepened and reshaped his understanding and given him deeper wisdom about the workings of God in our lives. From this vantagepoint, he writes this excellent book. What does it mean when your dreams - your GOOD dreams like a healthy marriage or a meaningful ministry - are shattered, and possibly never are revived? God works for our good - this is true. But that good, asserts Crabb, is not about our happiness, or resolving our problems in this lifetime. In fact, God's greatest good for us is drawing us so close to Him - often through our shattered dreams and broken idols - that our desire for Him far exceeds our desire for anything or anyone on earth. Crabb's theology is solid as a rock, and is utterly in line with Scriptures teaching on God's purposes for our lives, and the ways that He uses suffering - even extended suffering - for great spiritual benefit.

I filled a journal with quotes from this book, only because he gives such good, accurate expression to things I don't often read in Christian writing - that the bottom line, and the deepest aspirations of our lives are all about our desire and relationship for God. And to that end, any loss that He allows in our lives is only to increase the capacity of our hearts to experience joy in Him.

I personally would say this is a must-read for any believer who's been walking with the Lord long enough to have suffered great sorrows and griefs. Joy is here!

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## **Christy says**

This book was recommended to me and I was skeptical, largely because of the cliché looking cover and title of the book. It seemed a little melodramatic and unrealistic.

Any preconceived notions I had, I take them all back. This is truly one of the best books I have ever read.

Often times, when you go through hard times, well-intended family and friends push the notion that bad things happen because better things are coming. This fails to recognize that some "bad things" were once very good dreams that have shattered (due to cancer, divorce, etc.). However, it is often these "shattered dreams" that make us aware of the ultimate dream, of knowing and experiencing God, that is available in this life. I feel a little cliché when I write this, but this book is anything but cliché.

Just read it. Just read the book.

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## **Laurie says**

We used this book in a Bible study. It was either loved or hated. I hated it.

While reading the first chapter, it took everything in me not to throw that book across the room. Apparently the author has had problems with being angry with God and assumes his entire audience has suffered the same experience. I'm sure there are people that struggle with the issue, but not everyone.

Throughout the entire book, there were things I disagreed with.

I hated the book. If you ever struggled with being angry with God, perhaps this would be a good read for you. But, for me, I look at things from a different perspective than this author and have to give it a one star.

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## **Abbie Riddle says**

Who hasn't experienced shattered dreams - moments when our lives feel as if they are falling off their axis, spinning out of control, crashing down at our feet. Who hasn't found themselves devastated and broken, spilled out and hurting, desperate for restoration and redemption. What is happiness- True contentment - Security - Blessing? Where does one find these things in this broken and stained world filled with disappointments and heartaches?

Larry Crabb boldly declares the compassion and immeasurable grace of God our Father who desires above all else to bless His children.

I recommended this title to a friend in crisis - she laughed at the title - saying "This doesn't sound very encouraging". Oh - but this is the essence of life, we must experience the shattering to experience true grace, to appreciate the fullness of God's love, to find ourselves in total surrender to a faith that will forever change us and restore us.

I began reading this book after my husband preached a sermon about being "fully equipped" out of II Timothy. How true that God does equip us for the storms of life that batter us and threaten to destroy us.

I have a new-found respect for Larry Crabb as he teaches the doctrines of Christ and tells of the vast love and grace out of his own experience with shattered dreams. Living in the middle of a world shattered by health issues he has experienced grace and restoration and testifies of it in this powerful, life-changing book.

Thank you Waterbrook for this review copy

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### **Meredith DeVoe says**

This was exactly the right book at exactly the right time in my life.

*Shattered Dreams* gave me permission to freely process the grief of realizing that God owes me nothing, in spite of the ubiquitous teaching that "if I do this, then God will (or has to) do that for me". Nowhere in Scripture does God promise to fix my life up the way I wanted-- therefore I don't have to feel guilty about bad things happening in my life. Not only am I not in control and may never understand, it's okay because a God who is Love **is** in control and does understand not only His plan, but what I am going through.

Whatever I value, desire, think I need or should have or be; in God's eyes none of that outweighs His desire for an intimate relationship with Him.

This is not an easy truth to take, but this book was so healing as I worked through my anger and grief and disappointment with life, the universe, God Himself, and everything. *Shattered Dreams* showed me that God is big enough to take all that; and that having worked through it, I understood His love on an even deeper level than before. It was life-changing for me.

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### **Becca says**

Larry Crabb offers perspective on how to dig into difficult moments by tracing the story of Naomi in the book of Ruth.

I don't agree with everything Crabb says, but I do like the way he offers no excuses or easy answers for when bad things happen. While I had learned some of this material in the "knocks of life", I imagine this would be a valuable resource for those going through any difficult transition for the first time. I really love his emphasis on "feeling" that God is gone doesn't mean that he **IS** gone. I love how he pointed out that our main goal is usually "to feel better/good" and how this can become idolatry. This has given me a good bit to think about. We want the triumphant story, but that's not always how life goes.

I did get a little annoyed at his "Trust me, wait and see" writing style about what is supposed to motivate us/fill us with joy (spoiler - serving God). I wish he had talked about this more at length because while I definitely agree that God can bring us to this place, I'm wondering what this looks like re: our human desires. Still, this book is making me ask some good questions - I'm learning to ask, "Do I want to let God do what he's going to do or do I want to 'get better'?" I also think this book addresses the significant flaws in the

"health and wealth" gospel, ( especially Christian MLMs) and I'm sure a blog post will bubble up about this topic eventually.

I haven't looked very closely at the workbook in the back, but I do want to work through the material. I'll report back once I've worked through it (if I remember - ha).

Pairings: The Problem of Pain,

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**Gayle says**

Fabulous -

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