

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or surrender. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with golden light breaking through dark, textured clouds. The overall mood is one of awe and spiritual connection.

Belonging to Him

**IT'S NOT GOOD THAT
MAN SHOULD BE ALONE**

It's Not Good that Man Should Be Alone



**Inland Hills Church Lead Pastor
Andrew Stoecklein**

It's Not Good that Man Should Be Alone



Pastor Andrew and his wife, Kayla

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Pastor Andrew's Memorial

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Kayla Stoecklein:

“Nothing can take away the suffocating pain I feel now you are gone. I miss every part of you, I see you everywhere.

I replay the events of that fateful day over and over again in my mind wishing...I could have held your hand one more time and prayed over you and told you how much I love you, how much I believe in you, and how *God's got this* [situation] too.

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Kayla Stoecklein:

You were right all along.

I truly didn't understand the depths of your depression and anxiety. I didn't understand how real and how relentless the spiritual attacks were. The pain, the fear, and the turmoil you must have been dealing with every single day is unimaginable.

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Kayla Stoecklein:

I am so sorry you were so scared.

I am so sorry you felt so alone.

I am so sorry you felt misunderstood.

I am so sorry you felt betrayed and deeply hurt by the words and actions of others.

I am so sorry you were fighting a dark spiritual war virtually alone.

I am so sorry you were unable to fully get the help and support you needed.

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Kayla Stoecklein:

You are irreplaceable, Andrew. There will never be another man like you.”

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The First Crisis of Creation

When did God first notice something was wrong with the world he'd created? It wasn't Eve and the apple.

It was *Adam*, standing by himself in the garden.

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The First Crisis of Creation

In the face of his glorious creation, God saw that something was still incomplete. He said:

***“It is not good that man should be alone.”
(Genesis 2:18)***

And, still today, we all feel this in our deepest heart.

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Our Aloneness Is Linked To Our Fallenness

While the technical definition for sin may be “missing the mark,” sin and its effects are fundamentally sourced in the *absence* of relationship.

–Chiefly, a relationship intimately dependent on the guidance and provision we're meant to receive from God.

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In the practical sense, sin and its effects are sourced in our desire for personal autonomy at the cost of separation from God.

“[Your sins] have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.” (Isaiah 59:2)

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“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.” (Genesis 3:6)

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The lures of autonomy:

- I can run my own life (self-governance).
- I can't trust others.
- I care more about myself than I do about those around me.

Autonomy and aloneness come from wanting the privileges of relationship without the requirements of relationship.

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“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

And the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD.” (Genesis 3:7-8)

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Our Aloneness Is Linked To Our Fallenness

In our aloneness from God and others, we experience things like:

- **An overwhelming responsibility**
- **Fear & Anxiety**
- **Shame**
- **Defensive behavior**
- **Selfishness**

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In our aloneness from God and others, we experience things like:

- **Hiding, sewing fig leaves, building walls**
 - **Wearing-masks (“I’m fine” “Stay away!”)**
 - **Superficiality (pleasure/entertainment)**
 - **Addiction**
- **Suffering**
- **Hopelessness**
- **Death**

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The ultimate result of aloneness:

- **Living a hell on earth & perhaps for eternity:**

“The essence of hell is relational...hell is separation or banishment from the most beautiful being in the world—God himself. It is exclusion from anything that matters, from all value, not only from God but also from those who have come to know and love him.”

– J.P Moreland

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Is There Hope For Our Aloneness?



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Is There Hope For Our Aloneness?

“When my heart was embittered and I was pierced within, then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.

*Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you have taken hold of my right hand. With your counsel you will guide me, and afterward receive me to glory.
(Psalm 73:21-28)*

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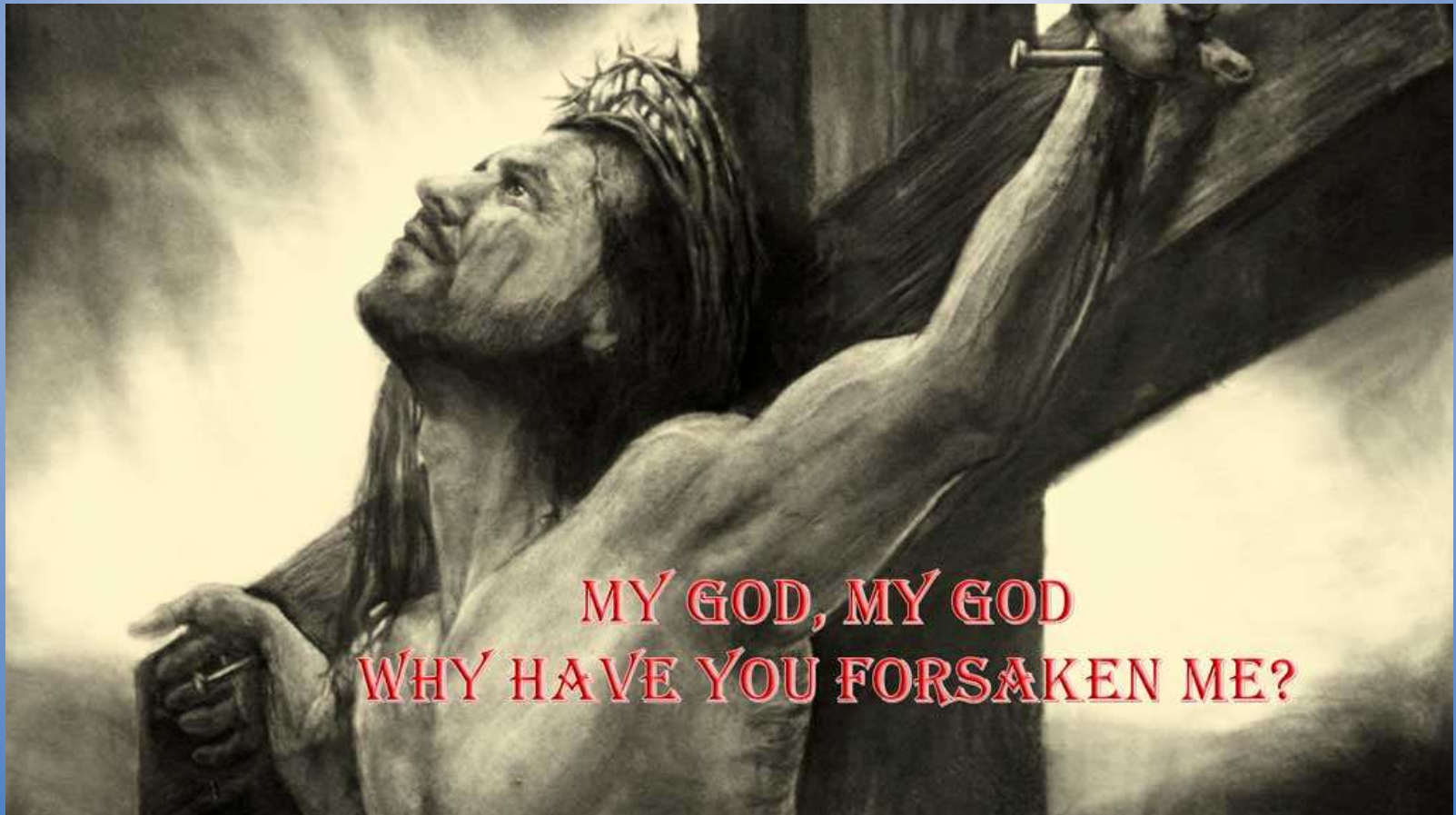
Is There Hope For Our Aloneness?

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And besides you, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

For, behold, those who are far from you will perish...But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all your works. (Psalm 73:21-28)

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The cross declares that God is finally with us in our aloneness. The cross satisfies our yearning to know that we can come to God as we are, with all our despair and hopelessness.

Within our suffocating “nothingness,” God can create something transcendent, healing, and above the circumstances of this evil world.

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We can only belong to him through the Cross...

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

*He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.”
(John 12:24-25)*

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Kayla: “If there’s one encouragement I can leave you with it’s don’t give up. If you’re struggling, tell someone, tell them everything, don’t worry about them judging you.”

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Kayla: “The enemy wants you to feel isolated, to feel unloved & worthless. I am here to tell you that you *are* loved and valued more than you could ever imagine...”

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Kayla: “God has a great plan for your life no matter who you are, no matter your past, God’s got you, God’s got this, and God can do impossible things.”

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Andrew: “*God’s Got This* doesn't mean he’s going to fix all of our problems. It doesn't mean that he's going to make this life easy on us.”

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Andrew: “It certainly hasn't been [for me]. And it certainly hasn't been for you. I know you feel the pain too.”

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Andrew: “What it does mean is that we can't do this life on our own.”

A person is seen from behind, standing with their arms raised high towards a dramatic, golden sunset sky filled with clouds. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The overall mood is one of awe, hope, or spiritual connection.

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