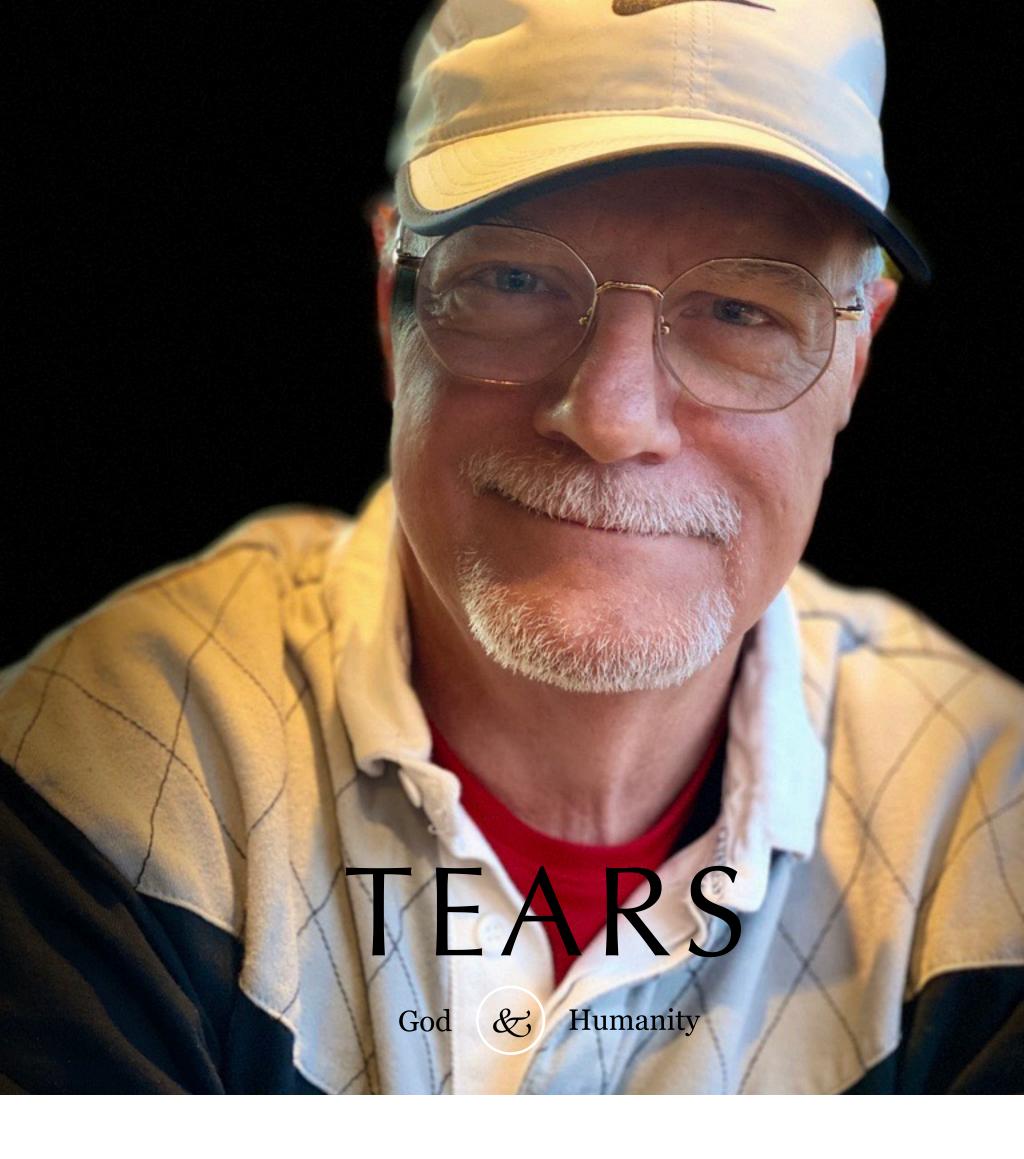
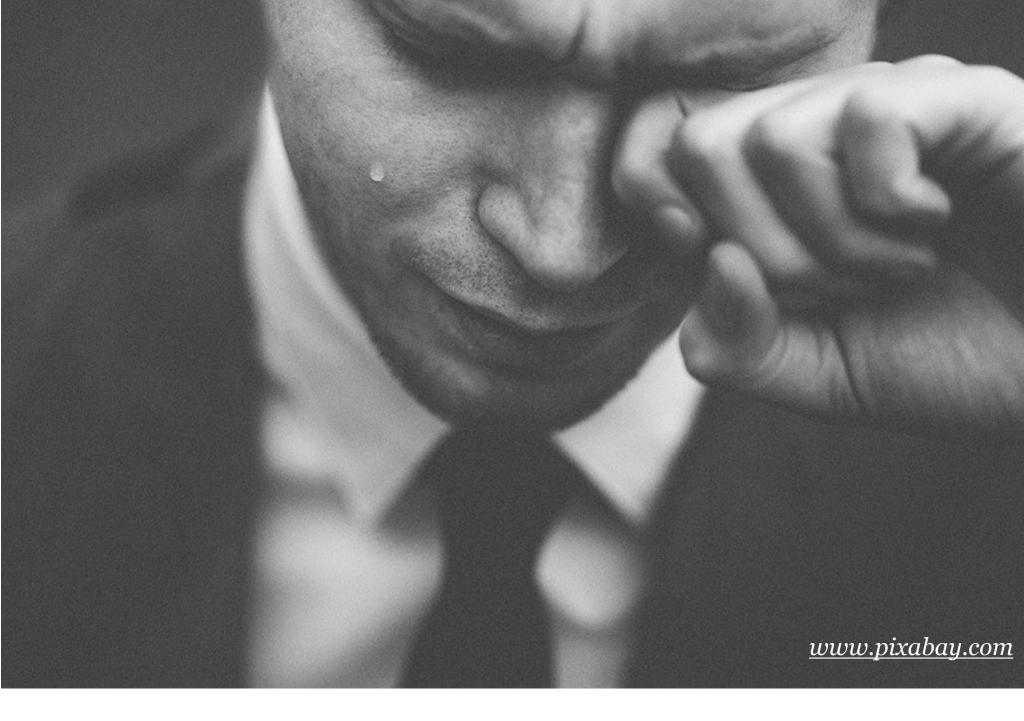
TEARS



Humanity



From the desk of your friend in Christ Jesus.





God's way of hugging us.

Celebrate your obedience - trusting God.

"...and He will wipe away every TEAR from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

(Revelation 21:4 NAS77 emphasis mine)



Hope lies behind every TEAR or the TEAR would never be shed. Every child's hope is that they qualify for love. Their very core needs a reason to live and every TEAR is a sign of either a loss or a gain of that expectation. An intangible hug will not do. Hugs like that are good, safe, and available at any time, but we are created to embrace skin.

Skin needs a reason to live. An over-active brain will not do nor a thousand diversions. Arguing about life only leaves it a mess. Picking up the mess may empower a soul, but it is just as empty if the outside only knows TEARS. Just as we once cried 'where's the beef' we now cry, 'where's the love'. Not just *a love* but that love that comes from another's settled insides and spills on yours.

Holy Spirit, comes into every willing heart to make it safe, may I say, 'devoid of TEARS'. Once within, the host has a right to live forever because Holy Spirit loves it with an eternal love. Now we can play in the same sandbox and not encroach on

another's turf. Now we can love one another.

We have gone full circle, from needing validation to validating others. Even if rejected, we are accepted and can accept those rejecting us. Our prayer turns from a prayer to remove my TEARS to a prayer for me to help remove the TEARS of others.

I think I will end this essay on TEARS with the words of what is known as The Prayer of Saint Francis. The very heart of the prayer is a peek into a soul who has come to peace with TEARS. Even though he came to know his eternal worth in but a moment, in that same moment he discovered the eternal worth of every other soul. Because of this, his TEARS of joy became infectious through his hugs. This very prayer hugs me by giving me permission to become the reason others live.

The Prayer of Saint Francis



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring love. Where there is offense, let me bring pardon. Where there is discord, let me bring union. Where there is error, let me bring truth. Where there is doubt, let me bring faith. Where there is despair, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, let me bring your light. Where there is sadness, let me bring joy. O Master, let me not seek as much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that one receives, it is in self-forgetting that one finds, it is in pardoning that one is pardoned; it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.