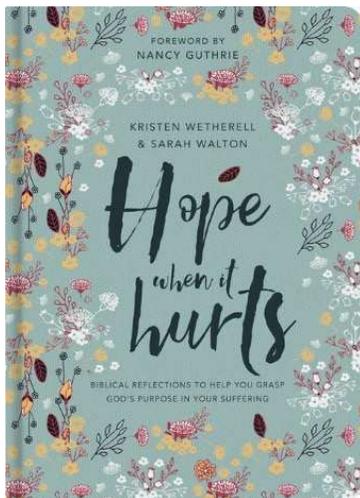


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Hope When It Hurts

Pain of Lyme Disease Brought Authors Together; Hope of Christ United Their Hearts



Purcellville, VA – Kristen and Sarah know what it means to suffer. Lyme disease has wracked each of their bodies for years, and Sarah’s entire family struggles with the agonizing symptoms. Yet the commonality that deeply unites these two women is surprisingly not the pain – it is a shared hope in Christ which brings purpose and joy to their most challenging days. Kristen Wetherell and Sarah Walton will co-author their first book in 2017, a collection of 30 biblical reflections for women entitled ***Hope When It Hurts: Biblical Reflections to Help You Grasp God’s Purpose in Your Suffering*** (April 2017, \$19.99, The Good Book Company). Personal trials beyond Lyme disease, including immense financial loss and a special needs situation in Sarah’s family, have also tested the promises of scripture for the authors. This new devotional shares the hope they’ve found in the gospel, fresh mercies discovered each day.

“If you are currently suffering, we are sorry. We feel for you,” they write in the introduction of ***Hope When it Hurts***. “Suffering is an awful thing. Yet it also invites us to wrestle with what God might be doing, right now in the midst of the pain. We wrote this book for you, to point you to hope, because there’s more to our suffering than meets the eye.”

Kristen and Sarah unfold their stories of wrestling with God in the pages of ***Hope When it Hurts***. Kristen’s health disintegrated over a period of six years as she went from running races and performing theater to perpetual weakness, inhibited movement, and chronic fatigue. Many years later, with dreams and hopes left behind, she was diagnosed with Lyme disease and since treatment is slowly rebuilding her health. “The war has been won,” she writes. “But the city is ravaged.” Sarah’s trials began as a teen suffering from an eating disorder and depression which led to hospital admission and a fresh faith in Christ. Her adult life has been disrupted by Lyme disease (both parents and all four children have been diagnosed) and the special needs of her oldest son. These challenges resulted in expensive medical treatments, immense income loss, the loss of their dream home, loneliness and overwhelming stress on their marriage. Like so many who are overwhelmed with suffering, Kristen and Sarah have battled despair, hopelessness and deep questions of faith.

Hope When It Hurts delivers empathy, consolation, wisdom, and most powerfully, a focus on the power of the gospel to transform and bring joy in the midst of suffering. Each day’s reading, penned by either Sarah or Kristen, draw from portions of 2 Corinthians 4 and 5 and is followed by a set of reflection questions, a suggested prayer and space for journaling.

Kristen and Sarah invite readers to discover how weakness and suffering are transformed in the light of the gospel. They point to 2 Corinthians 4:7, which describes our human bodies as simple jars of clay that contain a great treasure. Kristen explains: “Are you feeling weak today? Have your own deficiencies been exposed by suffering? Be comforted. You are a jar of clay, but you contain treasure, and your clay-ness serves to magnify the value of the treasure to you and to those around you.”

Whether a reader is suffering physically, psychologically, financially, or emotionally, this devotional affirms the reality of pain as well as the trustworthiness of the gospel. Kristen and Sarah address the myriad facets of suffering and unfold the reality of God’s presence and redemptive love. They are available for interviews to discuss topics including:

- ❖ Pain affects your view of everything – an invitation to wrestle with God
- ❖ Lyme disease (or any trial) may afflict me – but it does not have to crush me
- ❖ Parenting in the midst of pain – both yours and your child’s
- ❖ Offering real comfort to others – a reminder that you are not their savior
- ❖ Americans despise weakness – yet weakness is the doorway to divine strength
- ❖ Making the most of God’s mercies – they far outnumber our losses

Hope When It Hurts is published in cloth hardcover binding and includes a foreword from Bible teacher Nancy Guthrie. Ancillary gift products, including note cards, pens and journals, share design elements with the book and will release simultaneously with the hardcover book this spring. The book officially releases at The Gospel Coalition conference (Indianapolis) in April 2017.



About the Authors:

Kristen Wetherell is Ministry Content Manager at Unlocking the Bible and blogs at www.kristenwetherell.com. She is married to Brad. Sarah Walton is married to Jeff and is mother to four young children. She blogs at www.setapart.net. Kristen and Sarah both live in Chicago.

About the Publisher:

The Good Book Company is passionate about the Lord Jesus, His word, His church and His gospel of grace. Motivated by this passion and our involvement in local churches, it is our privilege to create and publish biblical, relevant and accessible resources that will encourage believers and the church family to keep going, keep growing and keep sharing their faith.

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**Hope When It Hurts:
Biblical Reflections to Help You Grasp God’s Purpose in Your Suffering**

By Kristen Wetherell and Sarah Walton

Available from The Good Book Company, www.thegoodbook.com

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