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Through the Ash

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Through the Ash

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSle9YrXbPw>



To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair.

ISAIAH 61:3

When botanist Dr. Elena Rostova arrived to survey the devastation in a burned section of Montana's Sapphire Mountains, she expected to find only death and destruction. Instead, she discovered something remarkable — a living lesson in renewal.

Kneeling in the drifts of soft black ash, Elena brushed aside soot near the base of a charred Ponderosa pine. To every outward appearance, the tree was gone. Lifeless. Destroyed. But tucked deep within the hollow of the blackened bark, tiny lime-green needles were pushing their way toward the light. Life was rising through the ashes.

What a beautiful picture of God's redeeming power.

So often, we walk through seasons that feel scorched by grief, disappointment, loss, or failure. We look at the remains of what once was and wonder how anything good could ever grow there again. But God has always been in the business of restoration. He sees every silent tear, every weary prayer, and every broken piece of our hearts.

What feels like the end to us may simply be the place where His healing begins.

Throughout Scripture, “sackcloth and ashes” symbolized mourning, repentance, and deep sorrow. Yet God never intended for His people to remain there forever. In Isaiah 61:3, we are given this beautiful promise: “To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair.”

Just as the forests of Montana’s Bitterroot Valley can rise again after fire, God promises to bring beauty out of the ashes of our lives. He can restore joy where sorrow once lived. He can breathe hope into hearts that feel burned out and broken.

Christian worship leader Cody Carnes sings these powerful words in the song Ain't Nobody: “He gave me joy for the mourning. For the ashes a crown. I’m a walking, talking miracle. And I just gotta let it out.”

What a reminder that God’s goodness is not limited by our circumstances. Even in the hardest seasons, He remains our strength, our peace, and our song. Psalm 118:14 declares: “The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

Sometimes the fire changes us. Sometimes the ashes remain for a while. But God is still at work beneath the surface, bringing new life where we thought nothing could survive.

If you are walking through a season that feels burned over and barren, do not lose heart. God still brings life through the ashes. The very place that looks ruined today may become the testimony of His restoration tomorrow.

Hold tightly to Him — because new growth often begins where we least expect it.

Karen Good

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