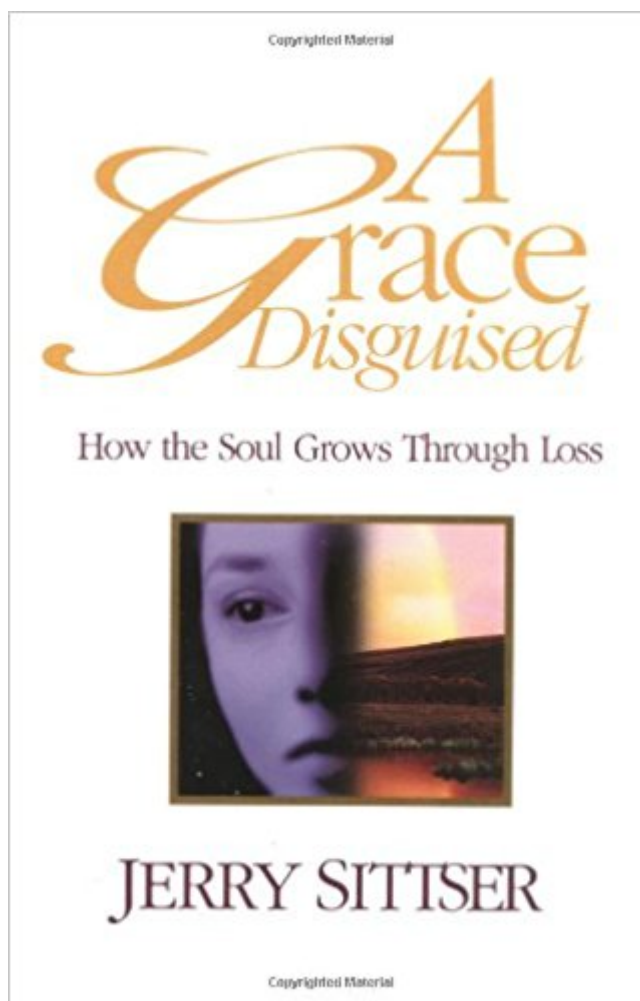


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# A Grace Disguised: How The Soul Grows Through Loss



## Synopsis

Loss came suddenly for Gerald Sittser. In an instant, a tragic accident claimed three generations of his family: his mother, his wife, and his young daughter. While most of us will not experience loss in such a catastrophic form, all of us will taste it. And we can, if we choose, know as well the grace that transforms it. *A Grace Disguised* plumbs the depths of our sorrows, whether due to illness, divorce, or the loss of someone we love. The circumstances are not important; what we do with those circumstances is. In coming to the end of ourselves, we can come to the beginning of a new life -- one marked by spiritual depth, joy, compassion, and a deeper appreciation of simple blessings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The experience of loss does not have to be the defining moment of our lives, writes Gerald Sittser. Instead, the defining moment can be our response to the loss. It is not what happens to us that matters so much as what happens in us. Sittser knows. A tragic accident introduced him to loss of a magnitude few of us encounter. But this is not a book about one man's sorrow. It's about the grace that can transform us in the midst of sorrow. For those experiencing loss, *A Grace Disguised* offers a compassionate, deeply affirming message of hope, richness in living, and joy not after the darkness, but even in the midst of it. Now in softcover.

Gerald L. Sittser is associate professor of religion at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington. He is the author of *The Adventure* (selected by the Guideposts Book Club) and *Loving Across Our*

## Differences

A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss is indispensable for thoughtful people going through loss. I first read it after my mother died and subsequently have read it several times. The author experienced extreme loss with the death of three of his family members and generalizes his experience for everyone, since eventually everyone encounters suffering. What makes the book so good is that it is written by a thoughtful person who never offers up clichés. He covers many aspects of suffering, such as questioning God's sovereignty in the face of random evil, dealing with forgiveness, creating a community of suffering, and much more. His primary thesis is that suffering can lead to spiritual transformation: It is not the presence of loss in one's life that determines his or her joy, but his or her response to the loss. I highly recommend the book.

I'm not a very sociable person. I'm not hateful, abrasive, or abusive. I've just never connected with people on deep level. I have acquaintances, not friends, just my nature. When my first wife suddenly died at a young age due to complications of Lupus, it left me and my 7 year old son alone in the wilderness. My family had their own issues and her family blamed me for her death. I didn't just lose my best friend, I lost my only friend and left me wondering if I had cared enough about the person I cared more about anyone else other than my son. Sittser had all these people rushing in to sacrificially support and encourage him. Not my story, maybe yours.

Best book on loss I have read. Jerry is honest with his story and the darkness, anger he felt. He shares his personal experiences and even his loss of faith. What I most comforting was knowing that I was not alone feeling my thoughts and emotions. They are all apart of grieving we all must go through. This book does not just talk about the loss of life even though that is Jerry's story, but a loss of a dream, job, relationship and much more. If you have ever lost something and feel like breathing is too painful, READ THIS BOOK. The first few chapters were emotionally difficult to get through, but READ them. Trust me worth it.... Thank you Jerry for sharing your story to the world.

Beautifully written from the heart. What is interesting is how LOSS is considered from a variety of angles not simply death. For someone who has suffered a wretched grief this is a wonderful way to assess the state of mourning as well as to understand the process. I felt comforted because I was not unique in some of my reactions. When you lose a loved one there is a tendency to think you are alone. Reading the various identifiers was comforting so I didn't think it was only me. Parts of the

book toward the last section tend to get into the existential part of loss that I sometimes found wading thru but it was well worth the read and beautifully compiled.

One of the greatest books on grief I've ever read. Note: this is not an easy read at all, but it is rewarding. After a tragic loss how does one cope with life, memory, family and all the sentiments and aftermath. I read this years ago and benefited from this hard fought experience and I have been using this in Stephen Ministry, as it is one of their recommended books.

This book was suggested to me by a missionary wife whose husband died of cancer awhile back. I purchased the book, which is in excellent condition, and was so blessed by how authentic Gerald was in sharing his story. I then purchased another one of them which I sent to one of my daughters-in-law, who had a twin daughter die of a heart condition at 17 days almost 5 years ago. I pray that this book will be of comfort to her. God was truly in this suggestion to me :-)

Very well written and insightful book. While it tells his story, it isn't solely about his story but about the grace and blessings you can gain through a tragedy if you are open to it and try. Thank you. A book everyone going through a tragic loss should read.

My wife and I are almost done reading this through together. We recently and tragically lost our only two grandkids. We are broken. This book is very readable and appropriate. I greatly recommend it.

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