

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

February

Leaning Into God's Goodness

As I write this, about 12 hours have elapsed since arguably the biggest sports contest of the year where Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs led a double-digit come-from-behind victory in overtime over the dynamic San Francisco 49ers football team. Think about the 49ers for a second. Imagine how devastated the players and coaching staff must feel after a long and grueling season with so much promise ended in the Super Bowl with a defeat? If I'm honest, disappointment comes with the territory if you're going to play in the NFL. If the ultimate goal is to win the world championship, then 31 of the 32 teams that compete every year - each comprising of 53 players and 12 coaches respectively - end their season in disappointment. That's a lot of people! Only one team wins in the end. The rest are forced to deal with the reality of defeat.



In life we will suffer loss. No one knows this better than combat Marines. Both on the battlefield and off, many of you have suffered great loss. There's no way around it and often it's difficult to comprehend it. In an effort to understand, we ask God, "Why?! Why would You allow such a thing?" In my experience, He doesn't always give us understanding. That's hard but it doesn't have to be a deal-breaker.

How can we deal with loss and disappointment, then?

PRO TIP: Regardless if we understand or not...**He's absolutely good always and He never violates His nature.** In other words, like Bill Johnson once said, "**He never departs from goodness to be something else.**"

In times of disappointment, we can lean into God's goodness and trust Him for the outcome. When we experience loss we can choose to let go of our need to understand, trust in His good nature and know that He is actively and decisively working all things together for our good (see Romans 8:28). He will work it out.

Friends, when things don't turn out the way you had hoped, take a breath, keep moving forward and keep trusting that God is good to you. Romans 10:11 tells us, "Those who put their trust in the Lord will not be put to shame."

My prayer for you is this: may you continue to experience the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! May you learn to trust God even in the midst of disappointment and discover just how good He is to you as He works all things together for your good.

I'm praying for you and it's an honor to serve you!

Sincerely,

Russ Hembel
National Chaplain