

## When 2 Children Died

Author Marshall Shelley, vice president of *Christianity Today* and editor of the *Leadership Journal*, suffered the deaths of two of his children – and grew in faith.

How could that be? The world does not understand how a positive can come out of such tragedies.

As a child reading novels, Shelley learned not to be confused by the introduction of many different characters, events and subplots introduced in early chapters. He learned that if the author was skilled, all the disparate parts would come together by the end of the book. Thus, he said about his life, “I choose to trust that before the book closes, the Author will make things clear.”

Who can understand the death of one child, much less two? How far can human reasoning go in explaining the facts, much less in healing the hurting heart?

David Jeremiah, author and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., addresses the subject in his book *Turning Points*: “Because we possess strong minds, as those created in the image of God, our natural tendency is to seek solutions first in reason. But reason is not all the mind is good for. The spiritually minded have ‘the mind of Christ,’ which is first and foremost a mind of faith (1 Corinthians 2:16). Our challenge in the spiritual life is to be faithful first and reasonable second.”

Perhaps you have lost a child, a family member or someone very close to you, and you have struggled with reason in your grief.

Just remember: The Author of the story of your life has a plot in progress that will leave no question unanswered.

– Beecher Hunter