

**Welcome!!  
To Week #4**

**CARE GIVER'S & CARE  
RECEIVER'S NEED FOR  
GOD'S WORD & PRAYER**



### **OPTIONS FOR WHERE PEOPLE LOOK IN TIMES OF TROUBLE**

1. A person's own wisdom and ability to deal with pain and suffering.
2. The wisdom and knowledge of another human that excludes God and His Word.
3. A god that is created that fits what the person wants the "higher power" to be like.
4. Anything that will make things seem better.
5. The God of the Bible and His explanation of what is the best way to live your life.

### **OUR PRAYER LIFE: LEARNING FROM JESUS'**

1. Jesus experience in Matthew 14:22-27, can be a word picture for how praying in solitude can give us an expected awareness of specific needs of others.
2. The needs of people never end, yet Luke 5:15-16 says, "but Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray." (NASV)
3. Jesus demonstrated that extended times of prayer are often necessary in discerning what God's will is in making decisions. (Luke 6:12-16)
4. Prayer can help us in our darkest times to be willing to accept whatever the outcome of a specific experience might be, even as we ask if it is possible for a different way.  
Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46
5. "Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us." Romans 8:34

### **OUR PRAYER LIFE: LEARNING FROM PAUL'S TEACHING**

1. We don't always know how to pray or to find the right words, but we can be sure that the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Romans 8:26
2. We are instructed to be "constant in prayer", (Romans 12:12), to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and "with all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)
3. When we are in times of affliction, the prayers of others can help us so that God can show His faithfulness when self-reliance will be an obstacle. 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
4. Ephesians 1:15-22 teaches us to pray both for ourselves and for others that:
  - God may give us the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.
  - The eyes of hearts will be enlightened, to know

- > **What is the hope to which He calls.**
- > **What are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.**
- > **What is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward all who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.**

**5. Ephesians 3:14-21 says to pray according to the riches of Jesus Christ glory that:**

- **He may grant strength with power through his Spirit in the inner being.**
- **Christ may dwell in hearts through faith.**
- **By being rooted and grounded in love there be a comprehension and knowledge of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.**

- **There may be filling with all the fullness of God.**

- **There will be faith and confidence that God is able to do far more abundantly than all that a person asks or thinks, according to the power at work within people of faith.**

**6. Ephesians 6:19-20 calls for prayer when we open our mouths, that we will be given words to be able to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, speaking as we ought as ambassadors.**

**7. The example of Colossians 1:9-13, is that we unceasingly pray that we may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to**

- **Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing him.**
- **Bear fruit in every good work.**
- **Increase in the knowledge of God.**
- **Be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.**
- **Be able to give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**

**8. Philemon 1:4-6 calls us to pray that the sharing of our faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.**

## **THE SIGNIFICANCE & POWER OF GOD'S WORD**

<sup>12</sup> *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

<sup>13</sup> *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:12-16 (ESV)*

<sup>16</sup> *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)*

<sup>12</sup> *“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12*

<sup>8</sup> *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

<sup>10</sup> *“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed*

*in the thing for which I sent it.*  
Isaiah 55:8-11

## **THE PERSONAL NEED FOR GOD'S WORD IN THE LIFE OF THE CAREGIVER**

<sup>6</sup> *It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.* 2 Timothy 2:6

<sup>15</sup> *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.* 2 Timothy 2:15

## **HOW GOD'S WORD CAN BE USED IN CAREGIVING**

### **1. Explaining the hope that comes from faith.**

<sup>15</sup> ...In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense [NIV give an answer] to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...<sup>1</sup>  
Peter 3:15

### **2. Comforting**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

### **3. Building up**

Let no corrupting [unwholesome, NASB, NIV] talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29

### **4. Providing information that equips**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

### **5. Explaining the gospel**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

## **HAVING BALANCE IN THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF CAREGIVING**

- 1. Be discerning and as natural as possible as to when and how the spiritual dimension into the relationship.**
- 2. Assess where the person is spiritually in a respectful, non-threatening, often unapparent way.**
- 3. There is normally a certain sense of earning the freedom to bring God, the Bible or prayer into the relationship.**
- 4. If you sense hurt by church experiences, acknowledge the hurt, validate their feelings, don't be quick to try to change their perspective, providing a safe place to talk about their thoughts & feelings.**
- 5. If you sense that a person would be comforted and encouraged by a passage, from God's word, you can say something like:**

*"There's a passage of Scripture that has meant a lot to me. Would mind if I share it with you?"*

6. Don't promise or make guarantees about what God is going to do with their situation or that everything is going to work out the way they hope.

Be sure to leave room to trust God that no matter how it might seem, He will be faithful and will make no mistakes.

## ***SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT IN THE PROCESS OF CAREGIVING***

Before we talk to someone, we can ask God for wisdom and direction in the conversation, and as the talk progresses, we can be sensitive to the Spirit's nudging.

Quite often, he reminds us of a passage of Scripture that speaks clearly to the person's predicament, he may bring to mind a situation we've experienced that parallels the person's needs, or he may prompt us to pray about a particular problem that has just surfaced.

Even when we aren't consciously aware of God's presence, He's there, guiding us, opening hearts and minds, and changing lives – even ours.

*<sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

**1 Corinthians 15:57-58**