

Some Biblical Perspective When Ministering To People With Disabilities

Here are 3 good questions that should be answered with sound biblical perspective when ministering to families or individuals dealing with disabilities. They are:

1. How does God view me and the disability in my life?
2. How does God want me to think and live with the disability in my life?
3. What is my hope?

How does God view me and the disability in my life?

"Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" Exodus 4:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11

"Do not be surprised but rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed". 1Peter 4:13

God is sovereign and out of His great love for you, He has designed a good plan for your life, that will honor and glorify Him, as well as richly impact those around you. He will use disability as His unique and powerful tool in your life. Through it you will discover God's love, His comfort, strength and constant presence. You will bring Him delight as you trust Him to show you how to live His specially chosen life for you. And through your obedience, your life will have significance, accomplishing God-directed purposes, not only in your own life, but in other's life, that are weighted eternally. You will know His blessing.

How does God want me to think and live with disability in my life?

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have eternal life". John 3:16

"Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts", Galatians 4:6

"His divine power gives us everything we need for life and godliness", 2 Peter 1:3

"You become imitators of us and of the Lord in spite of severe suffering... you become models to us all", 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

In order to live as God wants me to live in the midst of disability, He must direct my thinking. First of all, God wants me to know that I need Him as my Lord and Savior. It is through this relationship that I receive the Holy Spirit to dwell within me. I cannot live with disability and be all God wants me to be without His Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help me know God through His Word, and help me to apply His Word to my life. He will give me the strength, the patience – all I need to live, to meet the challenges of every day and will open doors for me to reach out to others, equipping me to do what I cannot do on my own. In this way, I am becoming more like Christ.

What is my hope?

"Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us". Romans 8:18

"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully". 1 Corinthians 13:12

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". 2 Corinthians 12:9

"We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not us". 2 Corinthians 4:7

Paul's call to the Church to function like a body with each member having a purpose. 1 Corinthians 12:14-26

"...who wants all men to come to the knowledge of the truth". 1 Timothy 2:4

My hope is based on Jesus. When I take the step of making Christ my Savior, the promise I have is that this journey of disability is temporary. Heaven is ahead. My perspective changes. The future I have awaiting me far outweighs what I am now experiencing. This gives me courage to lean hard on Who God is, so that even in my weakness, I can display His strength, love joy... so another can see Jesus up close. I can also delight in knowing that Christ has called His Bride, the church – which I am a part of – to be my defender and be "Jesus with skin on" . I am not alone and I participate in God's greatest purposes for His children and that is to "populate heaven and de-populate hell" by my witness.

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