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FearlessAndFreeCommunity.com

PODCAST EPISODE 38

**Demonic Oppression or My Own Issues?
Part Three: Grieving the Deceased**

PRAYER EXERCISE

Make this a time of prayer and reflection. Remove distractions. Begin an authentic conversation with Jesus. Consider writing down thoughts as they come to you.

Thank you, Jesus, that You are here with me. I ask You to reveal truth to my heart and guide me in this time of prayer and reflection. . .

- 1. Whether in our personal experience or ministering to others, grief is not something we need to have “fixed” or prayed away. It is God’s design for releasing pain. He is our Comforter. He wants us to pour out our hearts to Him through words and tears and to let Him be with us in the grief.**
 - a. God is Truth. He always speaks the truth to us, and He wants you to speak the truth to Him. Be honest with God about your feelings and what you need.
 - b. Holy Spirit is the Comforter and Helper. He comforts your soul in a way no one else can. He never leaves you alone. Simply pray: *Come Holy Spirit*. Focus on Him, open your heart to Him and listen. He will answer. His Presence will bring peace and draw you closer to your Heavenly Father.
 - c. The Word of God (the Bible) is our hope and confidence. It gives life to our souls and keeps us connected to His heart. Prayerfully consider: *Am I spending enough time reading and focusing on God’s Word?*

- 2. In grief, we can be tempted to seek comfort from the deceased. There is danger in wanting to talk to, or pray to, our dead loved one. The Bible is clear about this. See Leviticus 19:31 and Isaiah 8:19-20.**
 - a. When we seek answers from our deceased loved one instead of God, we are taking our questions to the wrong source instead of to the Truth to discover God wants to say. In so doing, we give the demonic world an open door to come as an angel of light, imitating our dead loved one to “help us.”
 - b. This demonic relationship will create bondage to “please” the demon and allow it to have control in your life.

- c. If you sense you have opened yourself to a demonic influence, you can end it now. Simply pray: *Lord, I repent for seeking help from the enemy. I want nothing to do with darkness. I renounce all demonic control and influence in my life, whether I am awake or asleep. Forgive me and set me free from any soul ties that were created by opening my heart to darkness. I command it to leave me now, in Jesus' name. Come Holy Spirit and replace this empty space within me with Your light and love. Amen.*
- 3. There is another danger to be aware of. Because the emotional pain of grief can be overwhelming, the enemy will often tempt us to want to give up on life. He will do this with thoughts such as, "It would be better to die now so you can be in heaven with your loved one," or through inner vows such as, "I cannot live without my loved one." Again, in such cases, demonic forces are seeking an opportunity to create bondage to death.**
- a. If/When these thoughts come, do not agree with them. Do not let them hang out in your mind or heart. Give them quickly to Jesus.
 - b. Grieve openly with Jesus.
 - c. Entrust your loved one to Jesus by praying to release him or her to eternity. Simply pray: *Lord, I do not understand why this happened, but I trust You. I trust that You are good, and Your promises are true. You have called my loved one to eternity. I release him/her to You. I trust you with my loved one's salvation and hold to the biblical hope that I will see him/her in heaven with You one day. Until that day comes, I will continue living a life that honors You and honors his/her memory. In Jesus' name, amen.*
- 4. It's okay to not be okay. Grief is meant to be shared in a safe and loving community.**
- a. Grieve in a small group with those who love you and treat you with dignity.
 - b. Find ways to thank God for the life of the one you lost. Honor his or her life and memory, for the glory of God and service to others.
 - c. Some possible ways to righteously honor our deceased loved ones:
 - i. Gather family and close friends on the loved one's birthday to share memories.
 - ii. Do a service project for a cause that was special to them.
 - iii. Do a walk or fun run in honor of them and raise money for a cause that they valued.

The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

**If you have yet to call on Jesus as your Lord and Savior,
find a biblical explanation of the vital need and a prayer guide at
FearlessAndFreeCommunity.com/Saving-Faith**

