

Caring for an Aging Parent

Biblical truths to consider:

Ephesians 6:1–3 (ESV)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

1 Timothy 5:4–8 (ESV)

⁴But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. ⁵She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, ⁶but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. ⁷Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. ⁸But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Factors to Consider:

Caring for an aging parent is both a physical and a spiritual undertaking.

1. What are their current and anticipated physical and mental needs?
2. What is their current and anticipated living situation?
3. Are they able to adequately care for themselves and their property in their current living situation?
4. Do you see signs of dementia, depression, or an inability to manage their own medications?
5. What is their current financial situation?
6. Is there a power of attorney or health care power of attorney in place? Do you anticipate one being necessary in the future?
7. Is your parent(s) open to talking about death and have they made arrangements for their passing already? If yes, which funeral home?
8. What is your parent(s) spiritual condition? Can you articulate their testimony? Are they personally prepared for death?
9. Are you an only child or do you have siblings?
10. Are your siblings willing to participate in meeting the current and anticipated needs of your parent(s)?
11. Are there any relationships in the family that need to be reconciled?
12. What assistance might be available to you through local government and non-profit agencies?
13. What are you (and any potential siblings) willing to do to fulfill your parents' wishes with regards to their own independence and living arrangements?
14. What are you not willing to do and why?
15. What might God be doing in the life of your parent(s), your life, and the life of others through this season of time?
16. What are you afraid of or concerned about as you navigate this present season of life and why?
17. What do you think your next step is after completing this assessment and why?

(Use another sheet of paper to record your answers)

BIBLICAL CONDUCTS OF GOD'S GRACE

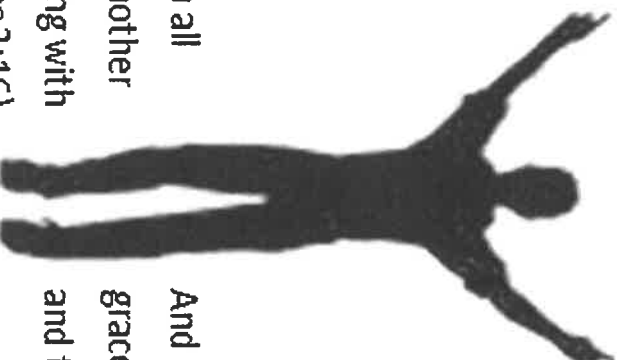
OTHER BELIEVERS AT

CLOSE RANGE

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...(1 Peter 4:10)

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION / MEDITATION

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)



BIBLE READING

And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up...(Acts 20:32)

DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

And of His fullness we have all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:16-17)

PRAYER

Let us, therefore, come boldly before the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

WORSHIP--SINGING

Colossians 3:16

1. Honestly rate yourself in each of these "means of grace" categories from 1-10 with ten being the best rating.
2. What practical things can you do to increase each one by even a single point (use the reverse side to record these answers)?
3. What three things will you begin to do immediately and why?