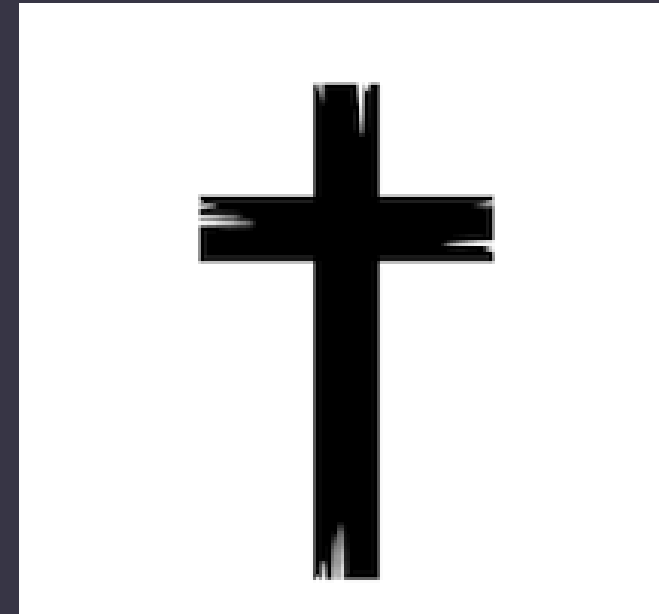
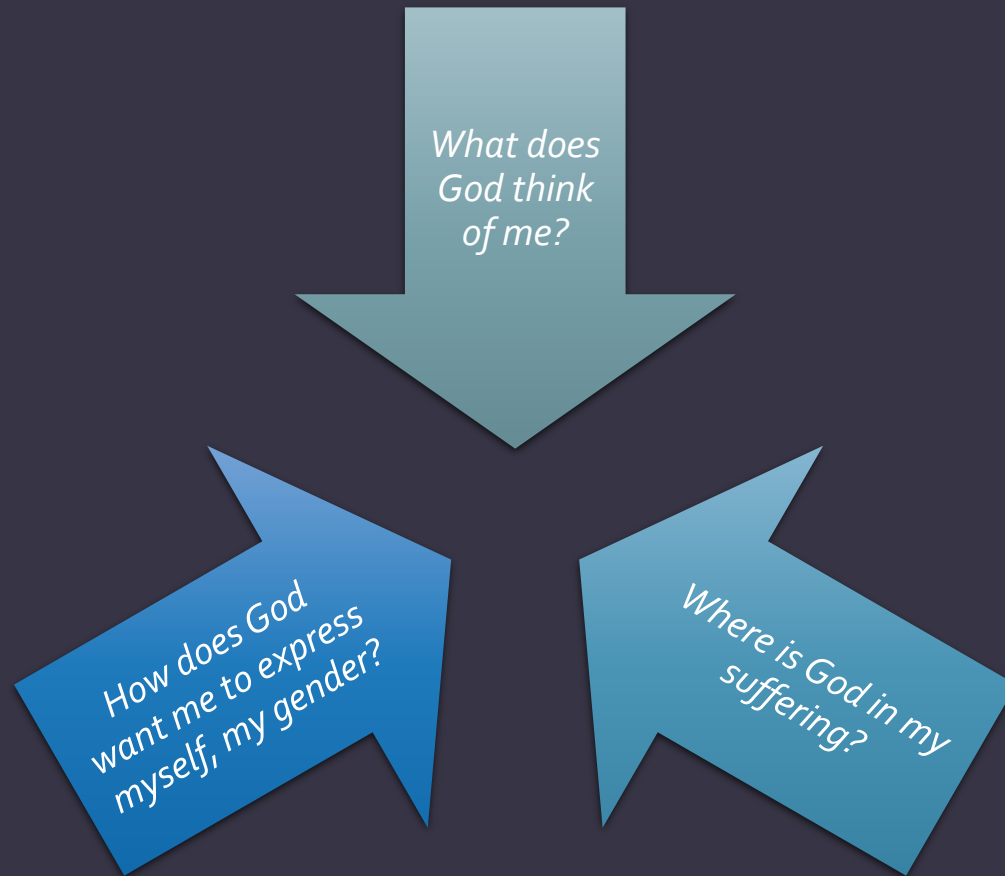


A PATH TO THRIVING: RECOVERING A HERMENEUTIC OF CHRISTIAN HOPE

Julia Sadusky, PsyD

FAITH



NAMES CREATE
REALITIES

Abomination

Sinful

Broken

Disordered

Delusional

BELOVED

A New Name

WAYS TO HELP

01

Challenge stereotypes in word and deed

02

Offer a path to thrive in

03

Engage Culture

- Stay attuned
- Honor strategies being used to make meaning, even ones you disagree with
- Expand horizons and possibilities for youth in the church

GOD IS NOT SURPRISED

“A world of automata – of creatures that worked like machines – would hardly be worth creating. The happiness which God designs for His higher creatures is the happiness of being freely, voluntarily united to Him and to each other in an ecstasy of love and delight compared with which the rapturous love between a man and a woman on this earth is mere milk and water. And for that they’ve got to be free.

Of course, God knew what would happen if they used their freedom the wrong way: apparently, He thought it worth the risk.”

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

WHAT DOES SANCTIFICATION
LOOK LIKE HERE?

A PARENT'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Prayer

Scripture

Faith
community

Trust in
God

PRAYER

My faith has probably gotten stronger, believe it or not. [Faith] was something that I've relied on in the past through trying situations, deaths, major issues and things that have come up in my life. Again, I turned to that to the best of my extent and prayed. I hear lots of people talking about prayer and what it is and what it's not. I think prayer needs to be as much if not more listening than a conversation, so I have got to shut up and listen. I did some prayer and I said, "I don't have the answers to this, let me just listen to you, God, and seek direction in this." It has really helped me mature in my faith walk in a phenomenal way.

SCRIPTURE



It was not uncommon for Christian parents to spend time in Scripture. For some, reading the Bible was a spiritual discipline that, along with prayer and corporate worship, served as a lifeline during a tumultuous season in their lives.

FAITH COMMUNITY

I continued to go to church. [My daughter] and I found another church together that we went to. It is a really good church that I still attend. I couldn't wait to go; I was excited about going to church for the first time in a long time. I joined a Bible study and I asked everybody that I knew to pray for me and for my daughter.

TRUST IN GOD

We had some great milestone faith moments together, so even though I really did not understand and it's painful as a parent, in those moments, I chose to trust God with her. I don't know where I got this phrase—maybe [I] read it—but I started reminding myself that this is not the end of this story. It was just where we were right then. I had to keep reminding myself that God has a great future in store for her. I had to keep immersing myself in trusting God with [my daughter]. [My daughter] chose Christ at a young age. She was baptized. This was not the whole story; this was just a part of the story.

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

- “Jesus has a plan for your family and His purposes will not be thwarted by sin and brokenness – if you but surrender your hurts to Him in love and trust... In times when you may feel that your family is not a perfect icon of the Trinity, take comfort in knowing that there are many ways to imagine the love of God. Sometimes, that image is the Cross of Christ.”
- Thomas Olmsted, “Complete My Joy,” 2018

"Suffering in Christianity is not only not meaningless, it is ultimately one of the most powerful media for the transmission of meaning. We can stand in adoration between the cross and kneel and kiss the wood that bore the body of our Saviour, because this is the means by which the ugly meaningless atheistic suffering of the world (the problem of evil) was transmuted into the living water, the blood of Christ, the wellspring of Creation. The great paradox here is that the Tree of Death and Suffering is the Tree of Life. This central paradox in Christianity allows us to love our own brokenness precisely because it is through that brokenness that we image the broken body of our God—and the highest expression of divine love...."



...That God in some sense wills it to be so seems evident in Gethsemane: Christ prays "Not my will, but thine be done," and when God's will is done it involves the scourge and the nails. It's also always struck me as particularly fitting and beautiful that when Christ is resurrected His body is not returned to a state of perfection, as the body of Adam in Eden, but rather it still bears the marks of His suffering and death—and indeed that it is precisely through these marks that He is known by Thomas.

▪ --Melinda Selmys

Resources

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