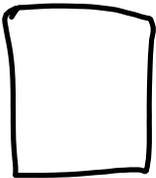


February 16, 2020

CONFUSED 3: REACHING MY WAYWARD FAMILY



"I'm discouraged because my children and husband have seemingly abandoned their faith. There are momentary glimmers but it just makes me sad. I have prayed for years. Nothing I can see is changing. I don't know how to approach this."

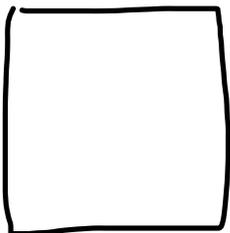
It seems that we are dealing with family members who are casual, at best, about their connection with a life devoted to God through His Son, Jesus.

They may be believers but not fully developed.

[BARNA]

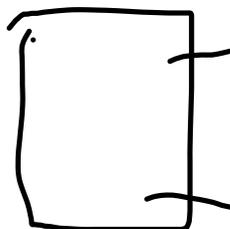
Most Christians mirror cultural goals:

- Desire for **happiness**
- Desire for **comfort**
- Desire for **security**
- Desire for **belonging**
- Desire for **popularity**



Few are focused on completely cooperating with God to experience the kind of whole-life transformation described in the Bible.

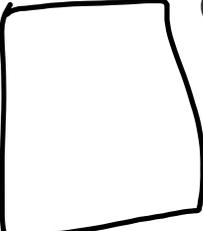
Which is made possible only through a partnership with the Lord.



George Barna reveals that this attitude spawns from a lack of responsibility for their personal growth in spiritual matters.

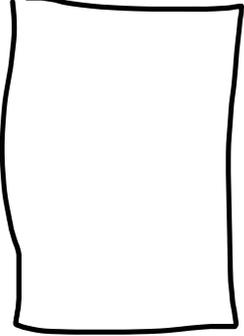
If you are in this situation, then let me share some encouraging news:

GOD WORKS THROUGH PRAYER! DON'T STOP!



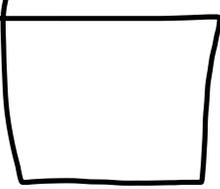
Hannah prayed for a long time for a son (1 Samuel 1:9-20)

She was very discouraged – driven to prayer out of “great anguish and sorrow, pouring out her heart” (Eli, the priest, thought she was a little tipsy).



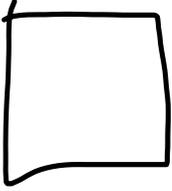
She had made a promise in the event the Lord answered her prayer: (vs. 11) “...if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime...”

- I WILL LET GO
- YOU WILL BE THE LORD (OF HIS LIFE)
- I WILL HONOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

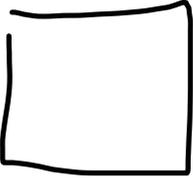


(Vs. 20) “...and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I asked the Lord for him.”

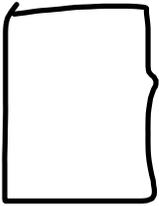
Samuel became a great prophet for God’s people.



"With God's power working in us, He can do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of." (Eph. 3:20 ERV)



"Jeremiah, I am the LORD. I am the God of every person on the earth. You know that nothing is impossible for me." (Jer. 32:27 ERV)



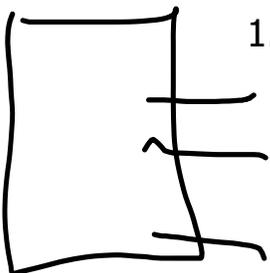
LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IN YOU

Luke 7:36-38;

"One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them."

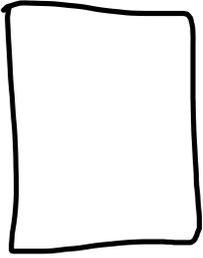
Vs 48,50

"Then Jesus said to the woman, 'Your sins are forgiven.' ⁵⁰And Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'"



1. WORSHIP IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR FAMILY

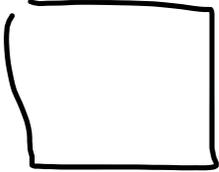
- a. Be INTENTIONAL about it
- b. Be SPONTANEOUS
- c. Let your INTENTION get His (God's) ATTENTION



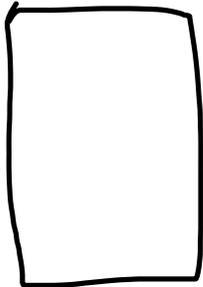
2. GOD LOVES THOSE YOU LOVE

Eph. 1:1-11 ERV

A. This is a letter to "God's faithful followers"



(Vs.4) *"In Christ, he chose us before the world was made. He chose us in love to be his holy people—people who could stand before him without any fault."*



3. KEEP JESUS THE PRIORITY

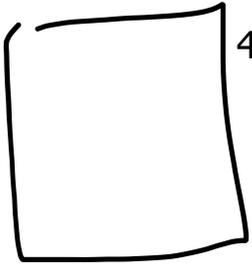
Hebrews 12:1-3

1. *"We have all these great people around us as examples. Their lives tell us what faith means. So we, too, should run the race that is before us and never quit."*

2. *We should remove from our lives anything that would slow us down and the sin that so often makes us fall."*

3. *We must never stop looking to Jesus. He is the leader of our faith, and he is the one who makes our faith complete. He suffered death on a cross. But he accepted the shame of the cross as if it were nothing because of the joy he could see waiting for him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne."*

4. *Think about Jesus. He patiently endured the angry insults that sinful people were shouting at him. Think about him so that you won't get discouraged and stop trying."*



4. YOU ARE BLESSED IN YOUR EFFORTS – HANG IN THERE!

Luke 6:21, 22 ERV

“Great blessings belong to you who are hungry now. You will be filled. Great blessings belong to you who are crying now. You will be happy and laughing.”

“²² People will hate you because you belong to the Son of Man. They will make you leave their group. They will insult you. They will think it is wrong even to say your name. When these things happen, know that great blessings belong to you.”

SO,

1. Lead a visible life of Christ for everyone in your family to see. A model is much easier to follow than a written plan.
2. Share from your passion about everything – especially about your life in Christ.
3. Don't get into arguments about faith and God. Discussions that lead to arguments change your desire to bring them to a close relationship with the Lord to a desire for you to be right. This will more likely be another “closed door”.
4. Don't stop praying! *“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”* Luke 11:9 NLT

<https://www.barna.com/research/research-on-how-god-transforms-lives-reveals-a-10-stop-journey/>

<https://www.barna.com/research/a-new-generation-expresses-its-skepticism-and-frustration-with-christianity/>

Bible App plan - <https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/17345-thankful>