

Responding to Crisis Situations in the Church

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners.

Jesus quotes this passage in **Luke 4:16-21** in the synagogue in Nazareth as He launches His earthly ministry.

- **Tragic Accidents**
 - **Death or Injury**
- **Sickness**
 - **The One Sick**
- **Adultery**
 - **The Offender**
 - **The Offended**
- **Sexual/Physical Abuse**
 - **The Offender**
 - **The Offended**
- **Addiction**
 - **The Addict**
 - **The Family**

All five of these realities that we as biblical counselors face only scratch the surface of the nuanced “impossible situations” that could come our way if we put ourselves out there for others. **James 1:2-8** tells us to ask for wisdom and not doubt.

The passage for our conference is **Psalms 46:1-3**:

God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble. Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas, though its water roars and foams and the mountains quake with its turmoil.

Some practical steps for us to take as we engage in the toughest of counseling situations:

- Prayer
- Careful listening (**James 1:19**)
- Slow down
- Gently assessing the situation
 - Safety?
 - For your counselee
 - For others
 - For the body of Christ
 - Gently ask questions

Bring them to the “hope” of God’s Word:

- The Lord is with you and for you (**Romans 8**).
- The Lord is steadfast in His love and is faithful (**Isaiah 26:3-4**).
 - Even if the person you are counseling is facing consequences, God will walk with them in their consequences if they are now owning their sin and following Christ with all their heart (**Isaiah 55:7**).
- The Lord is mighty and governs all things (**Isaiah 41:10**).
- The Lord is wise in all He does, meeting us in our groanings (**Romans 8:26-28**).
- The Lord is preparing a place in glory for the Believer (**Romans 8:18; Jude 1:24-25**).

Bring them to the resources you have available:

- Care Support
- Counseling Support
- Resource Support
- Logistical Support

Do follow up with your counselee in crisis:

- (**Psalm 34**)