

Call&Care

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Finding Faith in Uncertainty

There has been an increased sense of vulnerability and this is enhanced every time a famous character is reported as having died.

It give an opportunity to consider where our faith fits into this.

For some it may be a shock wave causing people to awaken to the possibility that life may not go on forever - a state we have been lulled into thinking.

In many Churches there are people particularly of the more mature generations who might describe themselves as having faith, but have always considered faith to be a “personal matter”. Therefore they are not always used to talking about their personal faith position or understanding.

There are certainly different responses to the current situation that have been seen to date.

1. The person whose life has moved away from God and this has been a wake up call to them.

Many of us have busy lives.

Many have grown up with a belief or understanding about God, who he is, and something about his wanting to have contact with us, but the circumstances of life have intervened – work, relationships and commitments can all get in the way.

I have known examples of people who once had a clear experience of God and had in some way lost touch with him being prompted in the current situation to make a move to find him again

2. The person who is left full of questions.

Where is God in all this? - is often a key question.

For some volunteers, hearing a person with questions can be unsettling.

However, do not be worried.

This is perfectly normal.

People who have known God all their lives will at times come out with uncertainties and questions when the stability and foundation of their lives are shaken.

And certainly this has been a time of shaking.

You do not have to have all the answers.

In fact, just being there and recognising the reality of their questions is all you have to do.

It is God they are asking the questions of, and it is to him that we need to direct them for the answers.

3. The person for whom the crisis digs a deeper chasm between them and God.

This crisis raises more questions, opens up fresh wounds or reopens old sores, so that they cry out “Why?” to God:

Why are you allowing this to happen?

How can you? How dare you?

This may be based on their deep hurt and pain, a sense of rejection or of God letting them down.

It may be that this person sees you as representing God, and because of this they may respond to you negatively.

Do not take it personally.

However, neither should you be expected to bear the brunt of their anger towards God.

Get them to talk to God directly:

To tell him their deepest thoughts.

To express to him all that they have bottled up.

There are numerous passages in the Bible where the writers behave like this and offload to God.

By doing this it connects them to God, reinforces he is there and that he wants to hear from them.

4. Some people's lives are continuing as before in many ways.

They can almost be oblivious to the current situation or maybe even in denial about the degree of it.

Some will find safety in this although there is a risk that when something happens which truly challenges their status quo, then that will be the time of their greatest need for support.

5. A large number of people have more time to think.

They may be considering who they are, and where they fit in the context of the world and society.

They may be reflecting on life, love, health, and faith.

As a volunteer, you are being there at this time for these people so they can gently unpack where they are at and the process they are going through.

Stability in an Unstable World

1. God is God and he has not changed whatever else may be changing.
2. We believe that God wants us to speak to him in prayer – this has not changed.
3. He knows each of us personally and all that we are going through and he wants to hear from us.
4. We can say anything to him as he already knows our hearts and accepts us for who we are.
5. God calls us to trust in him. If ever there were a time we need his help, it is now and we need to trust that he wants the best for us.
6. The love that took Jesus to the cross is the love he has for us today in our current situation.
7. God has a plan for each of us and wants us to know that we are dearly loved by him.