

Tools of Grace



2 Timothy (ESV)

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

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2 Timothy (ESV)

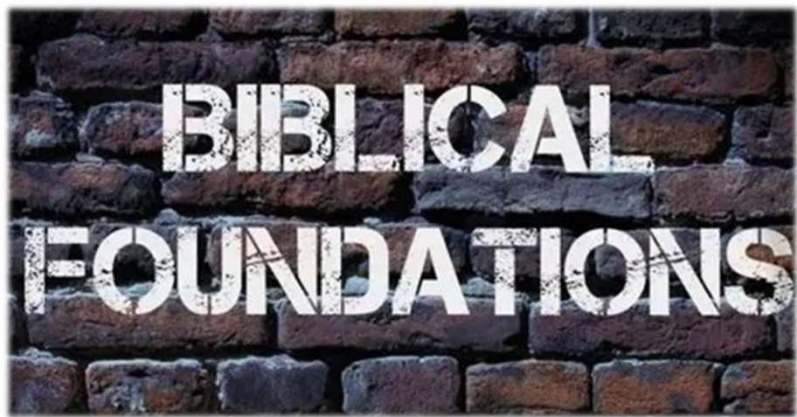
14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Main Idea

- God's Word equips us for the sacred work of caregiving.
- Caregiving for someone with dementia requires more than physical strength or emotional endurance.
- It calls for spiritual grounding.
- It requires tools God has already placed in our hands.
- Scripture, prayer & presence are not optional accessories; they are essential equipment for the holy work of loving someone whose world is changing.

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Biblical Foundation

- God's Word is not merely inspirational - it is formational.
- It shapes our heart, guides decisions & strengthens weary souls.
- God's Word lights the next step when the path feels uncertain.

***105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
(Psalm 119:105)***

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Biblical Foundation

- Scripture is God-breathed, trustworthy, and useful for real-life caregiving challenges. (2 Timothy 3:16)
- When caregiving feels heavy, God's Word strengthens our soul.

28 My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word! (Psalm 119:28 ESV)

Biblical Foundation

- Scripture gives endurance & encouragement, especially when days feel repetitive or lonely.

***4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
(Romans 15:4 ESV)***

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Biblical Foundation

- God equips us through His Word for every good work - including the unseen ones. (2 Timothy 3:17)
- Scripture becomes a stabilizing anchor when memory fades, routines shift & emotions fluctuate.
- It reminds caregivers that God is present, wise & actively equipping us.

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Prayer Sustains and Strengthens

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Prayer Sustains and Strengthens

- Prayer is not a last resort - it is a lifeline.
- It keeps us connected to the One who understands our burdens fully.
- Prayer becomes a rhythm, not an event.

17 pray without ceasing, (1 Thessalonians 5:17 ESV)

11

Prayer Sustains and Strengthens

- We can release anxieties into God's hands instead of carrying them alone.

7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7 ESV)

- God invites us to ask boldly for wisdom, patience & peace.

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7 ESV)

12

Prayer Sustains and Strengthens

- When we feel too exhausted to pray, the Spirit intercedes.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Romans 8:26 ESV)

13

Prayer Sustains and Strengthens

- God hears the cries of those who seek Him.

17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. (Psalm 34:17 ESV)

- Prayer becomes the quiet strength behind every task - bathing, feeding, redirecting, comforting.
- It transforms ordinary caregiving moments into sacred encounters with God.

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THE POWERFUL MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

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The Powerful Ministry of Presence

- We often underestimate the ministry of simply being there.
- Yet presence is one of the most Christlike tools they possess.
- Jesus entered grief with compassion and tears.

35 Jesus wept. (John 11:35 ESV)

16

The Powerful Ministry of Presence

- God draws near to the brokenhearted; caregivers mirror His nearness.

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:18 ESV)

- Silent presence can speak louder than perfect words.

13 And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great. (Job 2:13 ESV)

17

The Powerful Ministry of Presence

- Sharing emotion creates connection even when memory is impaired.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (Romans 12:15 ESV)

18

The Powerful Ministry of Presence

- Patient love is a profound gift to someone living with dementia.

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant (1 Corinthians 13:4 ESV)

- Presence communicates dignity, safety & love - especially when words no longer connect.
- A gentle touch, a calm voice, or simply sitting nearby can be holy ministry.

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Discussion Questions

- How has Scripture guided or encouraged you during difficult or confusing caregiving moments?
- What does prayer look like in your daily caregiving rhythm, and how has it sustained you?
- How do you practice the ministry of presence with your loved one, especially on challenging days?
- When have you seen God work through simple presence - yours or someone else's?

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