

March 2015,

Dear Friends,

***For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.  
(2 Timothy 1:7 KJV)***

We are currently involved in a struggle of epic proportions. It's not a struggle that comes from outside of the church but within. The struggle hasn't been forced upon us by the incursion of an enemy but rather has arisen slowly, building steadily until it has become epidemic. This struggle is the increasing number of particularly the older people within our churches diagnosed with dementia with its varying causes. As many of you know Pastor Rod Johnson has written a book on the subject of he and his wife Dolly having to deal with her Alzheimer's and subsequent dementia appropriately titled; Coming to Grips with Alzheimer's Finding Meaning in All Stages of Life! His work honestly details their personal struggle with the downward slope into dementia in hopes of helping other to be better able to anticipate the inevitable progression of the disease. Such works are vitally necessary as the number of cases has been increasing alarmingly and more and more people have had to learn to adjust their lives dramatically.

My own recently departed mother at the end of her life was plagued with hallucinations which caused her many moments of unrest and fear towards the end of her earthly sojourn and on at least two occasions my sister called me from Pennsylvania to pray with my mother, strengthen her faith and to assure her that her sins were forgiven in the name and blood of Jesus. It was hard to think that my mother who was always a stalwart of the faith was being caused by her own failing mind to question if God would really save her. Indeed it was a joy to be able to tell her that for Jesus' sake God not only would save her but already had and she would soon go to be with Him, but yet difficult to think of someone whom I loved so dearly in terrible fear because she had lost the sense of that reality.

It's therefore necessary for us to take the steps necessary to minister to our elders as they decline so that the failure of their earthly mind doesn't rob them of the peace of knowing that their spirits have been fully renewed by the finished work of Jesus Christ. This will require greater vigilance and dedication on our parts as we minister not only to them but also to their loved ones who are often placed in very difficult circumstance not knowing where to turn to find help. For this reason we are putting together a database of information together here at the seminary to make information accessible to people in need of help on this issue and many others that continue to cause difficulties. We are asking that you would make available reliable resources in your local areas that you may have found to be an aid when facing any such dilemma that we could provide info for and possibly link to through our database. Also we are asking for your continued support as we seek to strengthen the ministries of our local congregations as they seek to minister to God's beloved people.

God's Peace,  
Jay Weidner