

Living Through Dying – The Struggle for Grace

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To effectively work or be with those who are facing the end of life, we must first look into our own fears and values, beginning a personal exploration into how we face dying and how witnessing the dying of others may transform our perceptions.

Ted

He attempted suicide as a young man. At 53, he is experiencing more physical problems, perceiving a lessened quality of life and is wishing for a hastened death.

Virginia

Questioning her value at the age of 92, she feels “...all old people are dispensable...we’re just taking up space. Her son feels differently.

Bryan

Experiencing declining physical abilities, he and his wife seek a balance to the loss of independence while affirming life.

Kathryn

Only able to move her head and one finger due to her ALS, she uses her connection to her faith and friends to find joy and meaning.

Heiko

He prepared for his last weeks with care, expanding his network of love and support from family, friends and colleagues, ultimately celebrating his life and honoring his death.

Asking the important questions:

What has been your experience of death and dying?

What are your biggest fears about facing your own death?

How can you help others face their fears?

What is your idea of a good death?

How do you work with someone whose perceptions are different than your own?

How do you help others find meaning and value in the face of adversity or despair?

How do these experiences affect how you perceive death and dying?

