

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those who spirits are crushed." (NLT) Psalm 34:18

Biblical Examples

Elijah, Hannah, David, Jonah, Job & People that Jesus encountered & healed

What if I'm struggling with depression, anxiety or some kind of mental illness?

- ✓ Seek the Lord
- ✓ Seek to Understand
 - Your Chemistry
 - Your <u>Connections</u>
 - Your <u>Circumstances</u>
 - Your Consciousness
 - Your <u>Choices</u>
- ✓ Seek Help (Friends, pastor, professional counseling)
- ✓ Seek <u>Surrender</u>

5 Steps Everyone Can Take

- ✓ Choose to get <u>healthier</u>
- ✓ Choose to deepen relationships
- $\checkmark\,$ Choose to trust Christ no matter what happens
- ✓ Choose what you <u>think</u> about

✓ Choose Jesus to be your Savior (everyday)How do we help others?

- ✓ Listen to them
- \checkmark <u>Pray</u> with them and for them
- ✓ Encourage them
- ✓ Help them to get professional help if they need it
- ✓ Get them connected to a church and a small group

What does the church need to do?

- ✓ We must remove the stigma
- ✓ We must raise awareness
- $\checkmark\,$ We need to be equipped and educated
- $\checkmark\,$ We need to support those who struggle
- $\checkmark\,$ We must remind them of the hope we have in Jesus

3 Final Thoughts

- ✓ Your illness is not your <u>identity</u>
- ✓ You're created by God & He doesn't make mistakes
- ✓ You <u>matter</u> & are <u>valuable</u> to God

Websites with links to excellent resources

- https://www.focusonthefamily.com/lifechallenges/promos/ mental-health-resources
- http://hope4mentalhealth.com/act/resources
- https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0545/9317/files/Hope_Re source_Guide.pdf?2118848862963175616
- https://factsandtrends.net/mentalhealth/

Book to Consider (many others listed on these websites) Freedom from Anxiety & Depression by Mike Marino, PhD