



"Soul Care: Caring for Others and for Ourselves" Especially when Serving under Pressure or on the Front Lines

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What are the many Meanings of the word *Caring*? Challenges of Working and Serving Locally, Globally, & Inter-Culturally.

> How best to provide good Care for the Human Soul? How is your **Soul-Care** -- for Yourself and for Others?

How to become more Effective and Balanced in Service and Delivery? Who qualifies to be called a *Caregiver*? A Calling similar to ministering to humanity!

Similarities and differences between Soul-Care, Humanitarian Care, Clinical Care, and Pastoral Care, (Psychology, Psychotherapy, & Psychiatry)

Establishing Survival, Harmony, Endurance, Striving, Healthy Equilibrium, and Resilience.

Who will Guard the Guards, Help the Helpers, and Care for the Caregivers?

Cross-Cultural, Muti-National, & Inter-Denominational Caring Services.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the *Servant-Leader*, Talents & Gifts *versus* Limitations & Vulnerabilities.

Make a List of your Personal Positive Qualities versus your Weaknesses & Negative Qualities!

The Character, Confidence, and Career of the Compassionate Caregiver.

Paradoxes & Tensions in the Virtues of Service: Self-Care versus Self-Sacrifice.

Temptations & Polarities in Caregiving: Over Investing & Empathizing *versus* Under Investing & Empathizing.

Caregivers need to Watch the Symptoms of Disturbances, not only in Others, but also in Themselves.

Struggling with Injustices, Oppressions, and Sufferings while on the front line in the field: Necessary Guilt, Heavy Burdens, and Godly Sorrows... (agonies of soul & existential grief).

At many times we Provide Care out of our Weaknesses, not out of our Strengths.

Reflect on the theological concept of Incarnational Service & Ministry.

How can you apply the Meaning of the ancient Biblical Term Therapia?

Personality Traits & Psychological Functioning. High, Moderate, & Low Tolerance (Irritation): How is your Endurance & Resilience?

Integrity/ Accountability/ Authenticity/ Transparency/ Teach-ability/ Responsibility/ Spirituality...

Acute Stress, Severe Symptoms, & Depressive Tendencies **Burnout**: An Unavoidable Experience. Compassion Fatigue, Secondary Trauma, Complex Trauma, Vicarious Trauma.

Self-Awareness, Self-Discovery, & Self-Examination: A Healthy Practice of Introspection.

Capitalizing on the Rewarding Experiences and on the Positive Results and Benefits.

Guidelines for Self & Others Care:

- Recognize the Hazards of caregiving in the Human services.
- Utilize healthy escapes & Refocus on the joys, rewards, & blessings of your work
 - Develop steady routines & Safe nurturing relationships.
 - Avoid Procrastination and dragging Decisions.
 - Cultivate deep reflective life and contemplative spirituality.
- Value the strategic help & caregiving you are delivering even in challenging locations.
 - Maintain a clear vision and a sense of purpose & personal mission.
 - Create small sanctuaries of serenity along the way.
- Minding your body by keeping physically active; Watch for early signs of overwhelming symptoms.
 - Refer people in need to other caregivers when you are unable to help.
 - Reframe disruptive ideas & Restructure negative thoughts.
 - Practice healthy self-monitoring, self-discovery, & introspection habits.
 - Watch for early Symptoms of Burn-out and Depletion.
 - Nurture existing Friendships and mobilize mutual Support.
 - Engage in Creative activities, ideas, interests, and hobbies.
- Follow your passions and widen your horizons. Foster growth & Seek flourishing environments.
- Watch also for your colleagues' healthy functioning and welfare and any signs of their dysfunction.
 - Seek counseling, mentoring, & coaching when you need it (the earlier the better).
 - Often ask others for feedback, support, and encouragement.
 - Keep a Positive Attitude with Plenty of Gratitude.