

SPECIAL WORDS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE: OFFERING GRACE TO THE WEARY

WHEN GOD'S GIFT COMES SPECIALLY WRAPPED

SELECTED SCRIPTURES



The Heart of the Matter

This is a delicate subject, unfamiliar to many and even frightening to a few; however, it's a subject we dare not ignore or overlook. It is the world of physical, mental, and emotional challenges and disabilities . . . a world where millions of men and women, boys and girls, parents and grandparents live their lives. Nevertheless, it is also a world many fail to acknowledge, appreciate, and respect . . . unlike the Creator of bodies and brains—the Lord our God.



Discovering the Way

1. Believing in the Right Way: Theology (Selected Scriptures)

Here's a test for your theology: Is God sovereign when terrible things happen in life (Isaiah 45:5–7, 9–10)? What about when children are disabled? All children are a gift from God; no child is a mistake (Psalm 127:3). Every child is divinely formed and uniquely woven together by God (Psalm 139:13–16). Your child is specially wrapped for you with God's seal of approval.

2. Answering the Hard Questions: Reality (Exodus 4:10–11; John 9:1–3)

Let's press your theology a little further. Is God really involved in birth defects and disabilities? Are disabilities the consequences of someone's sin? How do I handle my confusion?



Starting Your Journey

Keeping the best perspective means being practical. To you who have a disabled child, trust God each new day for new strength. To you who don't have a disabled child, reach out every chance you get, even if you don't know what to do or what to say. And to the church, be committed to accepting, welcoming, and receiving everyone.



Tools for Digging Deeper



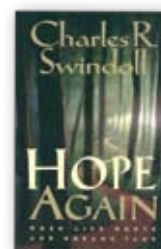
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