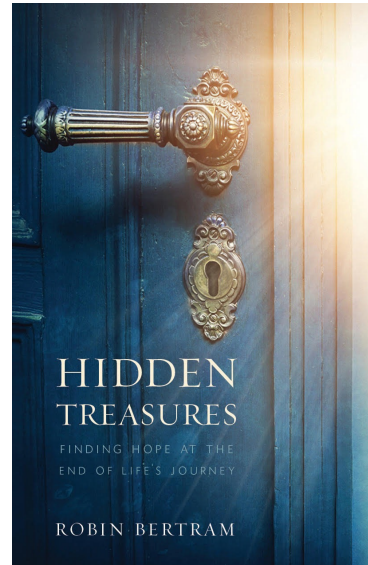


HIDDEN TREASURES

Finding Hope at the End of Your Journey

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GOD IS AT WORK IN THE MIDST OF YOUR DARKNESS

The diagnosis comes. It's devastating: a year, possibly two, maybe as many as 5. Now what? The first emotion you will most likely experience is shock, the second is fear, the third is confusion. You ask yourself, "Why is this happening?" "What are we going to do?"

Based on experiences derived from 25 years of prayer ministry, Robin Bertram, in "Hidden Treasures" provides insight and guidance to equip the reader --- patient, family member or friend --- to be able to walk through these challenging times with foresight, looking for, and expecting to see, God at work in many miraculous ways. Hope is available. Death with dignity is possible, and there are hidden treasures to embrace along the way.

"HIDDEN TREASURES" will help to answer these questions:

- If God is good, why are we going through this?
- What will our family do?
- How do we fight the fear that is trying to consume us?
- How can we encourage reconciliation in our family?
- Where can we find peace in the journey?
- What happens when we die?
- Is there life after death?
- What is heaven like?

You will most certainly be blessed as you read this book by deepening your understanding of the promises written in God's word, while learning how to comfort those who are facing long-term or terminal illnesses.

FAQ

1. What is one piece of information that you can give a terminally ill person to help them through difficult days?

Answer: That now is the time to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. It is a settled thing, and an unquestionable fact, that once you accept Jesus as Lord, you will have a glorified body one day and life eternal. You will not perish, but live on into eternity. There is life after death. You will go on into eternity and you will see Jesus.

2. When your loved one feels alone, what can you do to encourage him or her to help them through periods of loneliness?

Answer: This is a time when family and extended family must be present. If possible, have a weekly schedule where loved ones visit on the same day at the same time. Consistency brings comfort and peace. When you line out a schedule, your loved one will anticipate the visit, giving them something to look forward to and something to expect.

3. If you or your loved one is facing long-term or terminal illness, knowing Jesus becomes essential to facing long hard days.

Answer: Sharing the gospel is critical. If they do not know Jesus, tell them or find a pastor or friend who can share the truth with them. When individuals face such extreme suffering and pain, they are usually more receptive to hear the truth. They now need a foundation to stand on like never before. It is the greatest gift you can give them.

4. How do you help them through times of great anxiety?

Answer: The Bible reads, See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: One who trusts will not panic." (Is. 28:16)

If you put your trust in Jesus, anxiety will be greatly diminished because you have the one certain thing you can trust in. You can trust that God is working all things together for your good and His glory. He has the big picture; we do not. He knows what is best; we do not.

5. Who is the Holy Spirit and how can he help me?

Answer: The Bible reads, In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; (Ro 8:26).

Jesus said, before he ascended into heaven, that he would send his Spirit, the Holy Spirit who is also the Comforter. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the God-head. He is the Spirit of God sent by Jesus to help us through great times of difficulty. We pray to God for help and His Spirit helps us.

It is during times of severe distress when we need more than someone's kind word. We need the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit flowing through us to survive day-by-day. We need His grace flowing through us. We need His love to surround us. We need His peace to settle our frightened hearts. We need His precious Spirit to comfort us and give us hope.

6. You went through a very personal experience. How did this help you write this book?

Answer: I struggled with a serious health issue for a year and a half. I went to Mayo clinic and was given 4 potential diagnoses. Three were taken off the table. One was left: one for which there was no treatment, no medicine, and no cure, with a life expectancy of 2 years. It would be an agonizing path to death.

It was within that year-and-a-half battle for my own health that I wrote this book. I remembered all the lessons learned from 25 years of prayer ministry, all those I had personally ministered to, and put them on paper.

I was in the midst of utter darkness, I cried out to God and He shined His light into the deepest part of my soul. I could see again. He healed me and gave me this work to complete.

7. People who are facing struggles of sickness, long term or terminal illness sometimes feel that they are not important or not loved. What nugget can you share with them that will help to change their mind?

Answer: We all grew up singing the song, Jesus Loves me, but did we really believe it? My father was a pastor for 50 years. I grew up in church singing that song, but I didn't really believe it. I had to find God for myself, and that's when I felt loved. It was at a point in time when I had to decide to give my heart to Jesus and believe that He died for me. I remember his love covering me like a blanket. My life changed. I changed. And then I knew for sure that I was loved by my Heavenly Father.

8. Robin, how important is communication?

Answer: I've heard the most ridiculous platitudes like, "God needs one more flower in his garden". One objective of this book is to encourage the reader to be honest, direct, and open in communication with their loved one, but also loving and sensitive. I remember a time when working with a young child, the mother would tell everyone, everywhere they went that her child was terminal. This was true, but the constant reminder was more than the child could handle and finally a major melt down occurred in a place of business between the child and mother.

9. What are some ways a person can show love to their dying family member?

Answer: Show love by sharing memories. Show love by saving memories. Show love by making memories. In Hidden Treasures, I go into detail and offer suggestions that will help to make lasting memories for the entire family. This is the time to put things on hold and do what will mean the most for your loved one. It might be taking a trip to Disney for a child or reminiscing with old friends from the past for an elderly. I worked hard to share differences between young, middle aged and seniors when facing life challenging difficulties.

10. How can someone who has no hope grow in hope when the odds are against them?

Answer: You can find hope in Jesus because he is the anchor of our soul. You can find hope in words aptly spoken. You can find hope in faith-filled friends. In this book you will find an entire chapter on finding hope because hope is what truly helps, even the dying survive day-by-day. You have to hope in the truth of what is written and believe it for your situation. God is working. You are not alone. You can find hope in understanding the sovereignty of God.

11. Where does our faith come into play?

Answer: Faith is a tool for battle and it must constantly be sharpened. We can acknowledge there is a real fight. In the midst of a battle, there is usually a hero that emerges. A hero will choose a side and refuse to ride the fence; he will make a decision and stand by that decision. He will make those decisions based on his beliefs. Choose life, no matter the circumstances. If you do, you've already won.

Choose life instead of giving into the darkness that is meant to destroy you. In a battle, a hero refuses to be intimidated by the enemy. "This disease is not a friend; it is an invader." A hero does not run when things get rough, but stands firm, in the midst of the battle, refusing to be moved by circumstance, knowing they are victorious either way. A true hero looks at and embraces all possibilities legitimately and refuses defeat. It is the fight that spurs us toward a deeper walk of faith.

12. How do we grow in faith?

Answer: We grow in faith by hearing, reading, meditating on the word of God. The Holy Bible, when read, will build our faith and our confidence that God does love us and He is watching out for our best interests.

Many battles are won by our faith. Faith is believing beyond our circumstances. Faith is believing when all odds are against you. It is believing when your intellect screams you are wrong. It is the most powerful force one can tap into when walking through the battle. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for. Faith stands in the face of loss, sickness, or disease and simply says, "No I will not give in. No I will not give up. No I will not be defeated. I will win either way."

13. What is the significance of the title of your book, Hidden Treasures, especially as it relates to the subject of dealing with illness and suffering?

Answer: Through my many years of prayer ministry I dealt with people, young and old, facing all types of suffering, even death. In each of those cases, God was at work, but we didn't always recognize that until after the fact. Those times when God works in the midst of our pain and suffering are the "treasures" I'm talking about. And one key aspect that I try to stress throughout is to help people recognize those treasures as they are occurring, rather than simply acknowledging them retrospectively. In doing so, those who are ill, as well as their families and friends, are better able to cope with what is happening, and fully embrace the nearness of God to their circumstance.

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