

# FAITH AND DEMENTIA

Genesis 1:26-27

Colossians 3:1-4

Romans 8:26-27, 35-39

## Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Has something ever happened to you physically, emotionally, or mentally that made you question God's faithfulness? What was the short-term or long-term impact on your faith?
- What does it mean to you that we are made in God's image?

For individuals and their loved ones, a dementia diagnosis is often upsetting, disorienting, and overwhelming. It is common for people to question God's purpose or worry if their condition might cause them to forget God or his love for them. While the Bible does not address dementia or diseases like Alzheimer's by name, it does provide promises that we can cling to—promises that give us strength and support as we navigate the new and changing realities of life with dementia. Individuals, caregivers, and faith communities alike can receive the assurance and encouragement needed to live each day confident that no matter what dementia alters, no matter what we forget, nothing can separate a believer from the love of God. For our identity is ever secure in Jesus Christ.

**Listen:** [Faith and Dementia](#)

## Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Why is it comforting to remember that we are made in the image of God when something like a dementia diagnosis alters the course of our lives?
- Have you ever thought about Holy Saturday before? Does Dr. Suzanne McDonald's observation that it is a space for lament and grief resonate with you? Consider the disciples' experience, their loss of identity, and their probable emotions on that first Holy Saturday. How does reflecting on their experience help you?
- Reread Romans 8:35-39. How might the assurance spoken of in this verse calm fears in the face of dementia? Why is it comforting for individuals diagnosed with dementia? What about caregivers?
- In segment 3, the hosts talked about practical ideas for compassionately caring for individuals with dementia. Reflect on these suggestions. Why is compassionately caring for others important? How can it impact our own faith? How does preserving the dignity of others help us follow the Greatest Commandment we find in Matthew 22:36-40?

## Related Passages

- **Isaiah 49:15-16**
- **Psalm 139**
- **2 Corinthians 4**

## Conclusion

Read Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24. How does this passage provide encouragement and strength for a believer living with dementia? What about for a caregiver? Close by rewriting the passage as a prayer for any individuals and/or caregivers of people living with dementia that you know.

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<https://groundwork.reframemedia.com/episodes/faith-and-dementia>

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