

Nyack College Clinical Reflection paper

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Godly Living is one of Nyack college conceptual frameworks from the student handbook. It is fundamental to the delivery of nursing care from a Christian worldview. It involves a personal relationship with Christ and obedience to his Word. This is a living testimony of Godly living. The call to Christian nursing requires a willingness to obediently conform to God's standards (the Word) as evidenced by Godly living.

I agree with this conceptual framework as written: "The nursing student will grow in their relationship with God through engaging in spiritual disciplines such as; prayer, faith, scripture study, and through obedience to the Word of God and the prompting of the Holy Spirit" (Nyack college handbook).

I think this conceptual framework will help me develop as a nurse. It helps me to view nursing as a calling, not just as a profession. This will enhance my ability in caring for the patient, in delivering patient support, concern for the patient, advocating for and listening to the patient. It also enhances my ability to provide the personal, comforting touch needed in patient care.

There are strategies Christian nurses use to create a healing environment and enhance the well-being of the patient. This includes a healing environment which is patient centered. This strategy involves the compassionate nurse addressing the whole person. The Christian nurse is either fostering or hindering the creation of healing environments. Although some may not realize it, Nurses are expected to give spiritual care to their patients every day. The nurse recognizes that the patient is a whole person. The patient is body, soul and spirit. The Godly living framework allows us to address all three aspects of patient care. The physical body is a

visible ailing part that has placed them in our care. The soul which is the seat of the emotions is tied to the mental health of the patient and the spirit is the part of a human being that makes him God conscious. Many nurses lack the confidence and knowledge needed to provide the spiritual health of the patient. Patients in the hospital will come in contact with nurses who will be the frontline caregivers for them receiving healing. Nurses and hospital caregivers will promote patient healing. Nurses will assist the patients and see that the human body has natural healing abilities. A Christian nurse Jarrin wrote “What matters in patient healing is focus, compassion and intention. (Jarrin, 2012)

Conversations with the patient will mean asking intentional questions regarding their faith, their beliefs , practices and what brought them to the hospital this visit. Nurses operating from a Godly living conceptual view, will observe the patient’s surroundings and make note of any visible thing in the environment which may point to the spiritual part of the patient. A cross, a rosary, a Bible, maybe tattoos etc. The nurse will use these observations in conversation to assess the patient. Things spiritual and things that are meaningful to the patient may be used later to aid in his healing process.

Jane Pfeiffer writes that “The Christian nurse embodies the reality that God, in Christ Jesus, is always available for partnership in the healing process. Jesus, and the nurse as his partner, have power to envision and orchestrate a healing environment infused with spirit and connection for good, beyond the human level of relationship.”(Pfeiffer,2014.)

If I could remove one concept from this conceptual framework it would be to remove shackles and chains and freely and liberally spend time assessing with the patient the spiritual needs . This is just so that we can know what healing and Hope look like from the patient's perspective.

Jane Pfizer a Christian nurse mentioned in her article, a 93 year-old suicidal man who reported no spiritual or faith ties. The nurse made time later in the afternoon to continue her assessment. She referred to his earlier comment and continued, “you know, earlier today you said you didn’t have any spiritual beliefs ... where do you think you are going to go if you were to die today?” He stated he didn’t know where he would go. She describes herself being in close proximity, very focused, personal, and intimate with this man, and speaking softly, while many nurses would not be comfortable with this level of intervention, she told this man he could know for sure where he would go and all he had to do was pray to Jesus. He indicated interest, and so she led him in the sinner’s prayer. She then went to her next patient, the next bed and the man said to her ”I want to do the same thing that you did for that man.”” The nurse was surprised but she joyfully repeated the good news of Jesus as the Way to salvation and readiness for heaven, led the patient in the sinner’s prayer, and counted it a privilege to be used by God in this way.(Pfeiffer, 2014)

If I could add anything to this famous concept I would address the stages that the patient may experience because of a chronic, debilitating terminal illness. For example the stages of denial, anger, bargaining , depression and acceptance . I would spend more time with a patient and their family and implement actions that a nurse can do to help a patient spiritually navigate the stages.

At Nyack college the conceptual framework of Godly living is foundational to Nurses delivering care from a christian worldview. A personal relationship with Christ and obedience to his Word will aid nurses in this conceptual framework.

References

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