

Real Answers Column

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“Dad, I'm ok. There's been an accident.”

by
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My friend Nathan and his girlfriend Michelle were coming back from a date at about 9:00 PM. Suddenly there was a fiery explosion on the freeway right in front of them. It looked like another vehicle hit a motorcycle and caused the explosion.

Nathan jumped out of his car and ran to see if he could pull the man away from the wreck. But the heat from the fire was too intense and the flames were already engulfing the man's body. Nathan stood there helplessly watching the man burn to death.

After he called 911, Nathan phoned his parents. "Dad, I'm ok. There's been an accident. A man on a motorcycle died right in front of us." Then he and Michelle sat in his car – crying and praying for the man's family.

Has something like this ever happened to you? It's hard to get the vivid pictures out of your mind and get a hold on your emotions. What'd you do? Just ignore what you experienced and move on?

In times of crises and intense situations like the accident my friend witnessed, there're some practical things that we should do.

1. Pray – both for the injured person and their family, as well as yourself. Ask the Lord for His peace and calmness regarding the situation.
2. Call an older friend or mentor and ask to meet with them. You need someone to help you 'unpack' what you've experienced and get some perspective.
3. Saturate your mind with the Bible. Choose a couple of verses to meditate on and memorize.

We will never forget life experiences like this. That's why it's important to allow the Lord to work in our lives in such a way that these experiences motivate us and cause us to grow. And in this process remember how precious life is and how brief it can be on this planet. Eternity looms in front of each one of us.

For we are like a breath of air; our days are like a passing shadow.

Psalm 144:4

Make sure you're ready to step from this life into eternity – at any moment.