

**THE SPECIAL
NEEDS
MARRIAGE:
WHAT IS IT AND
WHY IT
MATTERS TO
THE CHURCH**

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AN OVERARCHING FRAMEWORK

1 in 6 children diagnosed (mental, behavioral, development)

1 in 4 (25%) families affected by disability

90% of special needs families do NOT attend church

Cradle to Grave Ministry: Lifelong diagnosis = Lifelong ministry

Disability vs. Special Needs vs. Neuro-Divergent

DISABILITY THEOLOGY AND BIAS

70% of Jesus' miracles

“All” have sinned...

Not all disabilities are “seen”

Welcome versus
Included versus
Needed/Wanted

Assimilation
versus
Acceptance:
Who's adapting?



A DRAMATIC BEGINNING

THE SPECIAL NEEDS MARRIAGE DEFINED

The special needs marriage is one in which one or more children are born with (or adopted) or later receive a diagnosis, be it physical, developmental, or behavioral, that affects the normal or typical flow of married/family life and connection.



DIAGNOSIS: THE BEGINNING OF TRAUMA



Anger

Confusion

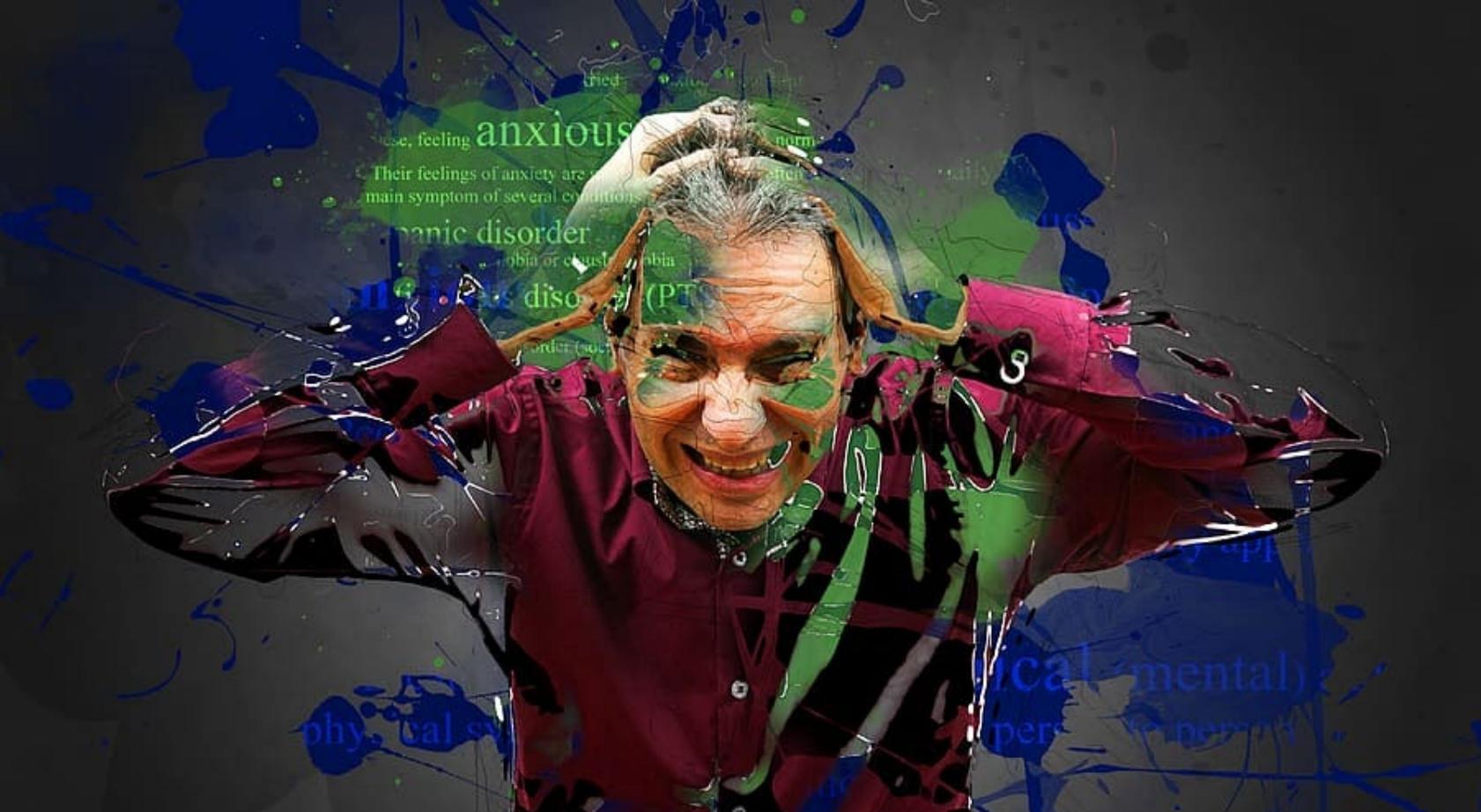
Grief

Shock

Fear

Loss





SEPARATING THE
DIAGNOSIS FROM THE
CHILD IS THE
BIGGEST CHALLENGE



DIAGNOSIS IS TRAUMA:
- PERPETUAL
- PERNICIOUS
- CUMULATIVE



**70-80%
Divorce
Rate**



CUMULATIVE STRESSORS

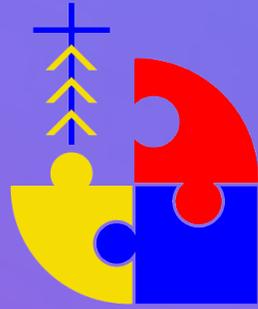


2-3X



50:1

SYSTEMIC STRESSORS



Family
Decisions

Extended
Family

Future
Uncertainties

Medical
Montage

Educational
Navigation

Friends &
Community



THE SPECIAL NEEDS MARRIAGE: THREE VIEWS

- The Long-View: The Golden Years
 - Start with the End in Mind
 - Financial Impacts
 - The Ultimate Question
 - Family Life Cycle Disrupted

THE SPECIAL NEEDS MARRIAGE: THREE VIEWS

- The Short-View: Important vs. Urgent
 - The Continuum Strain
 - Extended Vigilance
 - A Neurological Perspective



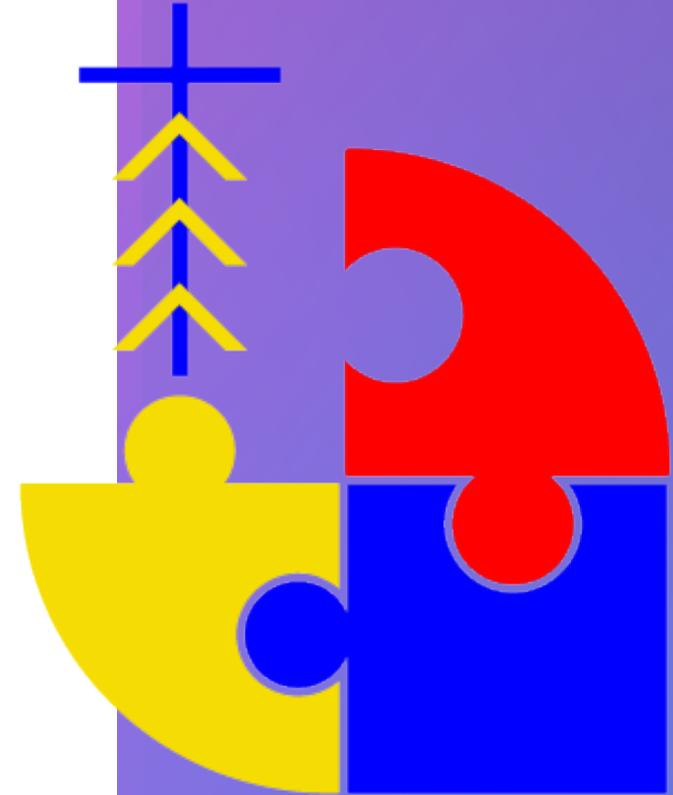


THE SPECIAL NEEDS MARRIAGE: THREE VIEWS

- The Attachment-View:
Typical vs. Specialized
 - An Example of Conflict
 - Disruption, Interruption and Erosion
 - Cumulative Impact

ISAIAH 61:1

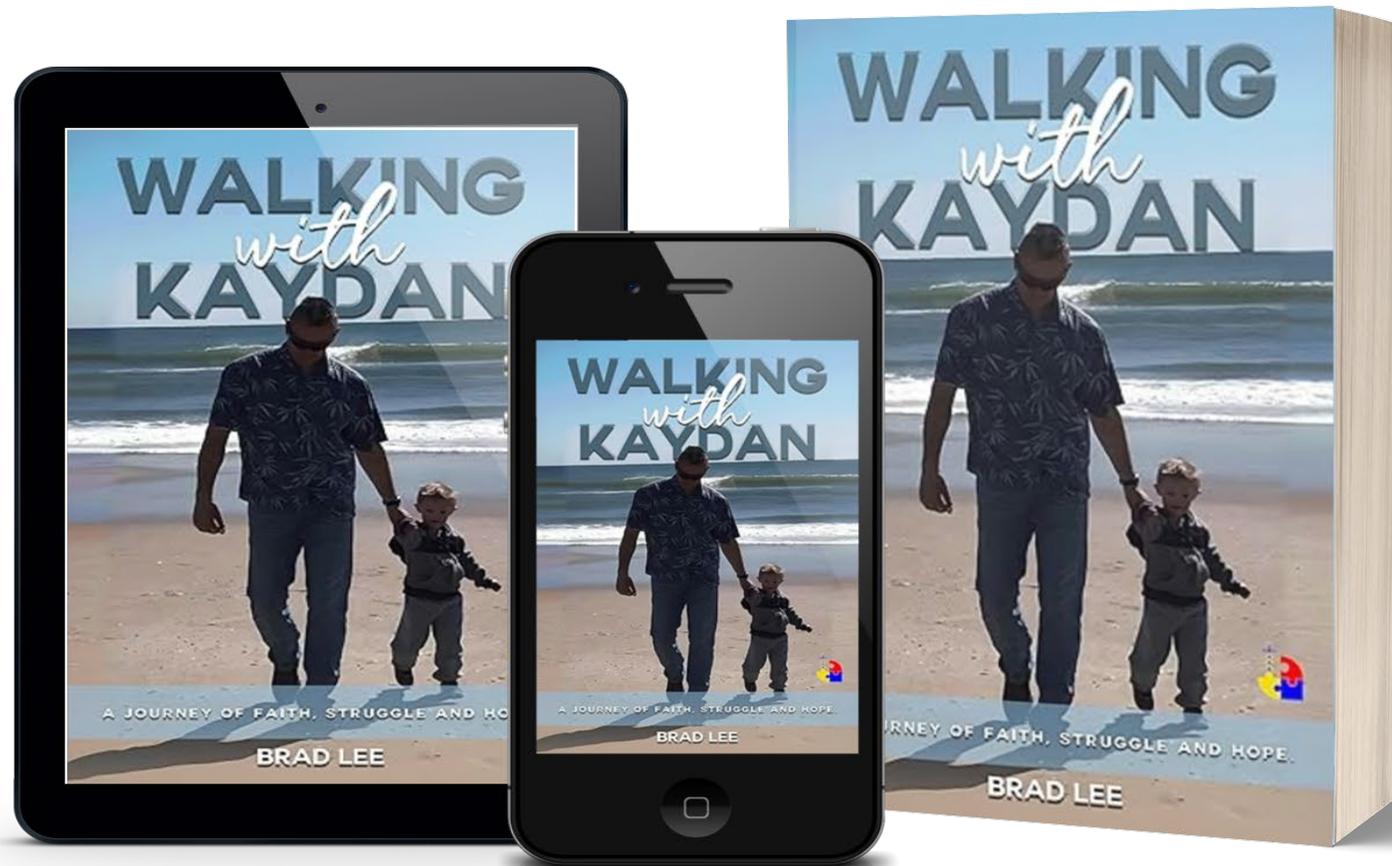
The Spirit of **the** Sovereign LORD is on me,
because **the** LORD has anointed me to
proclaim good news to **the** poor. He has
sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted**, to
proclaim freedom for **the** captives and
release from darkness for **the** prisoners.



ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE

- Who's already here? Ask them
- Who left?
- What resources do we already have?
- Who do we want to reach?
- What's one thing we could do now?
- What does your language say?

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON



www.walkingwithkaydan.com

QUESTIONS... FEEDBACK... CONNECTION

- specialneedsmarriage@gmail.com
- www.walkingwithkaydan.com
- www.thespecialneedsfamilyinstitute.com

