3 C's

A friend had contacted me recently for prayer for her son who had been getting into "trouble". He was drinking and she was afraid that he was getting into drugs. She cried and said, "I must be a terrible mom, what did I do wrong? I can think of so many things that I should have done differently." "honestly", I told her, "Every mom has said that. The bottom line is you are fine. You were there for your kiddos, you loved them, you fed them, you took them to church, you prayed for them. ANY thing else is on him."

Al Anon uses a few good phrases that work for so many people in different situations. The first is the 3 C's. You didn't Cause it, you can't Control it, you can't Cure it. As family members or friends of people when they are making poor life choices, we cannot be with them every moment to encourage them NOT to make that bad choice. And even if we could, there would be times they would choose the wrong choice despite our physical presence. Many years ago, in marriage counseling I learned that you/I cannot MAKE someone do anything or not do it. We have no control over another person.

But no matter what it is, you can take it to God. YOU may not be able to do anything, but you can ask for peace, wisdom and words to say when it's right.

Sometimes I feel like we are fighting against an unseen, unknown idea not a being but a mental struggle. We know that when we are in a spiritual battle, if we recognize what it is, we can arm ourselves with the full armor of God. Don't miss the times that the enemy is whispering those negative words in your mind. God does not give us guilt. He may convict you in your mind of something you have done wrong, but guilt is different. It is negative. It is destructive. I have watched people I love struggle with guilt. One was a catholic when she was younger. She struggled with why she had to confess sin when she was a little girl and tried hard to be good. It pushed her away from God for years. She married a man who introduced her to the "real" Jesus. The one who forgives because He loves. Not because she said 5s Hail Mary's and an act of contrition. We do not do anything for our salvation. It is a free gift that has been paid for 2000 yrs ago. Islam says that you must die the martyr (and often take someone with you) to get to heaven. Jesus says, "I died for you". If you have children, you know the love of a parent. God, our creator, is Abba, Father. He loves with a love we cannot comprehend. He sent

Jesus, His only son, to earth to live and die for us. A free gift to us, which cost Jesus everything. The good news is that Jesus did rise again and lives in heaven where we can live with Him forever if we only accept this incredible gift. How many times in your life have you been offered an incredible gift that you would not accept? Not very often, a gift is fun. But this gift! THIS gift if more than fun. THIS gift lasts for eternity and offers us a life after the one here on earth.
A life with the chance to see our loved ones again. A chance to be in the most incredibly beautiful place there could ever be. A place where there will be no more tears. Only peace. But you have to accept the gift. You have to take that hand that Jesus extends to each of us. Answer "yes" when He says "Come to me". Get to know Him. Read your Bible, talk to Him. The more time you spend with Him, the more time you want to spend with Him.

Lord, help remind us to seek you out, EVERY day. Amen

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