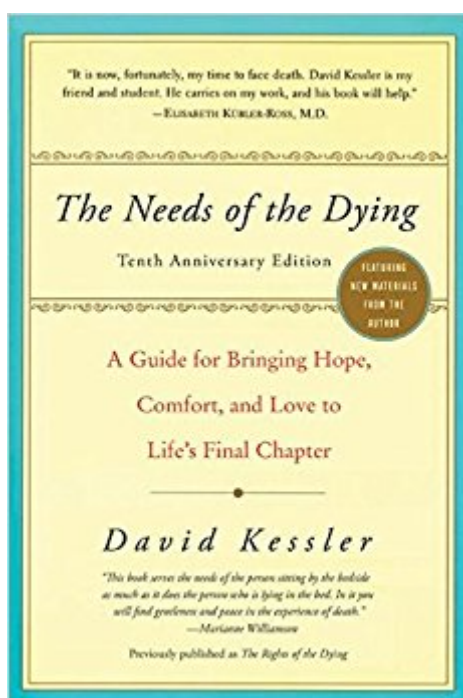


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# The Needs Of The Dying: A Guide For Bringing Hope, Comfort, And Love To Life's Final Chapter



## Synopsis

In gentle, compassionate language, *The Needs of the Dying* helps us through the last chapter of our lives. Author David Kessler has identified key areas of concern: the need to be treated as a living human being, the need for hope, the need to express emotions, the need to participate in care, the need for honesty, the need for spirituality, and the need to be free of physical pain. Examining the physical and emotional experiences of life-challenging illnesses, Kessler provides a vocabulary for family members and for the dying that allows them to communicate with doctors, with hospital staff, and with one another, and "at a time when the right words are exceedingly difficult to find" he helps readers find a way to say good-bye. Using comforting and touching stories, he provides information to help us meet the needs of a loved one at this important time in our lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A Remarkably compassionate, uplifting book. We encourage all patients and their family and friends to read his words and thoughts." -- Ted Mann Cancer Center at UCLA  
"David Kessler's work has made a significant contribution in helping us understand the needs of the dying." -- American Cancer Society

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, author of "On Death and Dying" "It is now, fortunately, my time to face death. David Kessler is my friend and student. He carries on my work, and his book will help."  
Mother Teresa This book is a source of reflection over that most mysterious and beautiful moment which awaits us all. It helps people to understand that death is the full surrender of ourselves to

love, like a falling into the arms of God. Marianne Williamson, author of "A Return to Love" David Kessler was at my side as I watched my own father die. This book serves the needs of the person sitting by the bedside as much as it does the person who is lying in the bed. In it you will find gentleness and peace in the experience of death.

If you are interested in end of life, this is a good read to get you started. As a hospice worker and social worker, it could have been more "in depth" for me but for someone losing a loved one or even someone dying themselves, this is a great, easy, interesting read.

Nothing less than what I expected from this author! Dr. Kessler writes nothing less than pure gold! He keeps me inspired to work with people in their journey to everlasting. He does not use fancy jargon or cliches when he writes so he speaks from heart to heart in such a way that any person, no matter how skilled they are, can learn! This is like my third book that I have read from Dr. Kessler...hope he keeps on writing!

Love this book. I work in health care, and found it extremely easy read with practical suggestions we all need to deal with and use when the time comes for those we care for including ourselves!

When I received the news that my father's time on this earth was limited, I wanted information and this was the top rated book on . It did not disappoint. There were some chapters that were super heavy; they definitely slowed me down in processing the whole book. But life is heavy so this book is very real. For anyone facing the challenge of losing a love one, this book is invaluable.

Having worked with the dying for four decades, and am very familiar with Kubler-Ross' great work, Kessler, in his book, has captured the very essence of the needs of the dying! Reverend Thomas Gehlsen, Ph.D.

I greatly value having read David Kessler's *The Needs of the Dying*, especially interesting right after reading Kathleen Dowling Singh's *The Grace in Dying*. While affirming many of the same principles, they are in some ways 180 degrees different in approach. Whereas Singh views the process of dying as detaching oneself from the isolation of mental ego, Kessler affirms its celebration as a person's unique presence in this life, carried on into the next. Both authors share the certainty that birth was not our beginning and death is not our ending. Kessler's

book is much more accessible reading, useful as a guidebook for anyone, since we all share the dying experience: that of family, friends, patients, and ultimately, ourselves. He organizes it along a list of 16 needs, originally published as rights, beginning with the need to be acknowledged as fully living through the moment of death, to be allowed to maintain hope of any kind and be surrounded and cared for by people who will share or support that hope. Hope may change in time from cure, longer life, beating death, to determining the environment, companionship, or time of one's death. It is a person's right and need to hold and be supported in their own hope. Kessler provides an excellent section on allowing children to experience death as a normal, special part of life, how to truthfully prepare them, how to follow their progressive cues as to what information they can absorb. Just as he asserts that no one should have to die alone, he believes that children should not be barred from being with their dying family member, a deep felt memory from his own experience with his mother's death. He describes the physical processes of death, as well as practical details following death, to give the dying and their companions knowledge with which to be able to plan their time together, in the manner they want, both before and after death. This book is helpful for my own understanding and experience, as well as for sharing with others. I look forward to reading *On Grief and Grieving* and *Life Lessons*, coauthored with Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, and Kessler's own *Visions, Trips, and Crowded Rooms*.

This is an amazing book. I highly suggest everyone read it. We need to be able to speak about death as a natural part of life as easily as we talk about birth...

I bought this book because my mother is dying and I needed to know more. Kessler has a wonderful way of delivering this knowledge. He is thorough in imparting this knowledge and does so with total compassion for the dying and the living. I underscored many passages in this work and especially appreciated someone telling me (chapter 8) what can I expect in the way of physical signs as mom goes through the dying process. This book is very user friendly having a very readable quality. I strongly recommend it!

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