**Edward Church Stop the Bleeding – Disappointments** **August 1, 2017 Pt 2**

**God has so** much **for us to** experience **in this life. He has** provided **a way in** every **situation**

**That we may** find **ourselves in. So many times, we get** harmed **by** circumstances **and if not** handled **correctly, we can** bleed **to death (***emotionally, mentally, spiritually***). We need to find what God** says**,** apply **it and** stop **the** bleeding**.**

 **…****Disappointments**

 **All of us** face **life-altering** disappointments **that leave us** breathless**. Often, these** disappointments **come** unexpectedly**, leaving us with more** questions **than** answers**. But even** when **we don’t have** all **the** answers **or** any **of the answers—God.**

**Whatever our** circumstances**, whether we** stand **on the highest** mountain **or** wander **through the darkest** valley**, God is** ready **to** protect**,** comfort **and** heal **us. Our** task **is to** let **Him.**

**Life is filled with the** good**, the** bad **and the** ugly **-During the** happy **times, we are** tempted **to take our** blessings **for** granted**. During life’s** difficult **days, we** discover **what we’re** made **of. And what our** faith **is** made **of.**

 **If your** faith **is being** tested **by difficult** circumstances**, ask yourself 3 important** questions**:**

* ***“****How* ***does God want me to*** *respond****?”***
* ***“****What* ***does God want me to*** *learn****?”***
* ***“****Where* ***does God want me to*** *go* ***from here?”***

 **Your** Lessons

**These** lessons **are often** difficult **to** understand**- especially when** hurt **or** angry**- but ask…**

**What are God’s** Lessons **from your** disappointments**? Plenty!**

* **Every disappointing** chapter **of life has important** lessons **to** teach **-BUT** no one **can** learn **them for you -you** must **learn these** lessons **for you – w- God’s** help**, you** will**!**
* Hidden **within** every **disappointment is the** potential **for** personal **/** spiritual **growth. Life’s** darkest **days are** filled **w-** teachable **moments -**unique **learning opportunities.**
* **During these** moments**, God has** things **that He wants to say** specifically **for you. In turn, you** must **make yourself**  ready/willing to receive/acceptinstructions**.**

**Your** Future

**If you’ve** endured **a** life**-altering disappointment, you may have good** reason **to ask, *“****where* ***do I*** *go* ***from here, Lord?”* In** time**, He will** answer **you. His answer** may **not come** immediately**, and it may** not **come in a way that you** expect**. But He** will **answer -Matt 7:7, 8**

* **Our father has a** perfect **plan /** chosen **path for all his children -when tough** times **arrive,** learn **from your** experiences **/**pray **for God’s** guidance **for your future.**
* **If you Do what you** can **do- God will do what you** can’t **do. God will** turn **your** obstacles **from** stumbling **blocks into** stepping **stones.**

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*7“ Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8“ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.-***Matt 7:7, 8**

*For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting,/ His truth endures to all generations.* **-Psa 100:5**

* *For GOD is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.* **Psa 100:5 Message**

*For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.* **-I Cor 13:12**

* *We don’t yet see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won’t be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We’ll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!* **-I Cor 13:12**

*“I say this because I know what I am planning for you,” “I have plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future”* **Jer 29:11 NCV**

* *I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out— plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.* **-Jer 29:11 Message**

*There is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God me***… Phil 3:13-14**

* *Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward— to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.* **Phil 3:13-14**

*Every achievement worth remembering is stained with the blood of diligence and scarred by the wounds of disappointment.* **Charles Swindoll**

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**Your Response**

**God wants us to** respond **to life’s** disappointing **moments with an** attitude **of** obedience**. No matter how** difficult **your** circumstances**, God** calls **us to obey the** instructions **that are contained in His** Word**.**

* **He wants us to remain** hopeful **- Psalm 31:24, *“Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD”***

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* **He instructs us to remain** faithful **to Him, and He wants you to be** courageous **Matthew 8:26,** *“Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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* **God also expects us to** forgive **those who have** injured **you- Matt 6:14,** *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you”*

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* **God wants us to** treat **others with** kindness **and** gentleness**- Eph 4:32,** *“be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you”*