

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/accept instructions.**

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

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*”**

- **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”

- **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*”**

- **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*”**