
OUR STORY – EXPERIENCING THE BLESSING OF GOD

2:18,19 DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT AND FAILURE BETTINA COLLINS

What is disappointment?

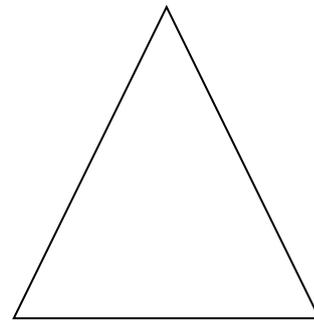
Why do we get disappointed?

“Disappointment comes from misplaced expectations”

Two reasons for disappointment:

- 1)
- 2)

How disappointment can work in our lives.



Can Christians be disappointed? Is disappointment necessary?

It is the nature of things that our natural foundations must be destroyed if true spirituality is to develop. (Larry Crabb)

Everyone knows disappointment sooner or later.....We live in a world of disappointment, and if we do not come to grips with this truth, we are doomed to be unhappier tomorrow than we are today. (Ray Pritchard)

What is the Christian response to Disappointment?

- 1) Gratitude/Thanksgiving: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ; Colossians 3:15
- 2) Worship:
- 3) ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION
- 4) Where we take our disappointment:
- 5) What we learn from disappointment:

If disappointment is misplaced expectations: how might we need to adjust expectations? How do we balance realistic expectations with dreams/vision? But even as we adjust, we can hope, trust God to help us find the balance. Romans 8:28

Dealing with Failure

What is Failure?

Peter's Failure (Matthew 26: 30-35; 69-75)

- *the purpose of Peter's Failure (Psalm 37:23-24; Psalm 145:14; Proverbs 24:16)
- * Peter learned he could not trust himself
- *Peter's fall was a death blow to his pride and arrogance.
- *Peter gained a deeper appreciation of the depths of the grace of God.
- *Peter's failure enabled him to be much more understanding and gentle with those under his authority. See John 21:15-19

So what about failure:

- 1) We should expect failure.
- 2) When failure involves sin: we must learn to view failure as God does.
- 3) Failure as lessons for growth and change
 - a. Understanding the consequences of our decisions
 - b. Learning from mistakes; learning what not to do.
 - c. Redemption and restoration: confession and forgiveness. The God of second chances.

Can we be a failure without even realising we are?

DEALING WITH FAILURE "RISE, LET US BE GOING..." – MATTHEW 26:46 THE DISCIPLES WENT TO SLEEP WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE KEPT AWAKE, AND WHEN THEY REALIZED WHAT THEY HAD DONE IT PRODUCED DESPAIR IN THEM. WHEN WE FEEL SOMETHING IS BEYOND REPAIR IT CAN CAUSE US TO DESPAIR, AND WE SAY, "It's all over now, there's no use trying any more." IF WE THINK THAT THIS KIND OF DESPAIR IS RARE, WE'RE MISTAKEN, IT'S A VERY COMMON HUMAN EXPERIENCE.

Whenever we realize that we've missed out on a magnificent opportunity Jesus Christ comes and says, "THAT OPPORTUNITY IS LOST FOREVER, YOU CANNOT ALTER IT, BUT ARISE AND GO TO THE NEXT THING." Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ, and go out into the future with Him. There are experiences like this in each of our lives. We find ourselves in despair and we cannot lift ourselves out of it. The disciples in this instance had done a downright unforgivable thing — they had gone to sleep instead of watching with Jesus, but He said to them "ARISE AND DO THE NEXT THING."

If we're Christians, what is the next thing? It's to trust Him absolutely and to pray on the ground of His Redemption. Never let the sense of failure keep you from moving forward with Christ. Oswald Chambers

For Reflection:

1. *What is a failure you have experienced I your life?*
2. *How did you process this failure with God?*
3. *What lessons did you learn?*