

Overcoming Disappointment

By Brian R. Kenyon

Life is filled with disappointment. Job said, “Man who is born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). Disappointment comes in all shapes and sizes. Some we bring on ourselves; some is brought upon us by others; and some just results from events over which we have no control. How can we handle disappointments in life? John 14-16 contains the answer. In this section of Scripture, Jesus prepared the apostles for His departure. He had been with them for about three years. He had been their constant companion, but He was going to depart soon. The apostles were about to lose their best Friend, the one on Whom they had relied for so long. Imagine their disappointment! Although our disappointments may not involve the earthly loss of our best friends, they can come close to what the apostles were experiencing. The way Jesus prepared them for this potentially overwhelming disappointment can also give us strength to overcome our disappointments.

Have Faith in God

Faith in God will help us through disappointing times. Jesus began this section, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me” (John 14:1). Imagine if we were in the place of the apostles. Do we remember times in our lives when we lost someone on whom we depended so much, whether a best friend, a family member or even a spouse? Perhaps we remember when we were children that our best friend moved away. Or, maybe church members whom we had grown to love and appreciate had to leave the congregation for whatever reason. This is how disappointed the apostles were about to feel. Their best Friend was about to leave. Their security would soon be taken away. What could they do? What can we do? Jesus said, “Believe in God”! Biblical belief is not a blind leap in the dark. It is based on knowledge (Romans 10:17). Yes, that is right; faith is knowing! The Bible defines faith: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). The evidence for God’s existence is all around us (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:19-20). We can also know that the Bible is His inspired Word. We must, therefore, do what it teaches and trust its promises, because “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). When tempted to be overcome with disappointment, we must look beyond the moment and trust that God will help us.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Lannie & Glenda Key: be praying for both of them during this difficult time

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister} is in the nursing home in Guin, pray for her she has some ongoing health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Angie Ganey Gardner: fighting against breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy); planning on gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please continue to keep her in your prayers

Guy Weeks: is undergoing cancer treatments, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Sandy Markham: is having a problem with her ankle, please pray that this will get better

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Maddie Bishop (young girl South Haleyville) diagnosed with stage 4 Ewing sarcoma, please pray for her and her family and that treatments can defeat this cancer

Billy Lee {Carolyn’s Brother} he is in renal failure, is back at the nursing home in Guin, please be praying for him and the staff caring for him

Timmy Weeks: he is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that he will receive treatments that can restore his health

Danny Berryhill: diagnosed with thickness of the heart, please be praying that doctors can successfully help him with this problem

Bill Berryhill: dealing with cancer, please be pray that his battle with cancer can be controlled and won

Mason Estes: he is need of a liver transplant; please be keeping him and his family in your prayers

Becky Jones: she has been diagnosed with renal failure; please be keeping her in your prayers

Frank Farris: is dealing with some health problems, please pray that he gets better

Judy Barker (David Barker’s Mother): she had been diagnosed with bone and lung cancer; please keep her and her family in your prayers

Leonard Key: in the hospital with a broken hip, please pray that with surgery he will be fine and that there will be no complications

Know This World Is Not Our Home

Jesus promised the apostles, “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2-3). There is more to life for the faithful Christian than this world. One reason Jesus went back to the Father was to make ready our eternal abode with God. “Mansions [dwelling places, NAS; rooms, ESV]” is from a Greek word (mone) that means “dwelling place, abode, room” (same word in John 14:23). Imagine living in the same abode as the Father and the Son! That is exactly what awaits all the faithful children of God. There is no disappointment in this life that can take that away! Paul said that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). Most, if not all, of our disappointments arise because of what we perceive as losing in this world. The apostles, for example, had difficulty seeing beyond their present time when faced with the reality of Jesus’ departure (John 14:5, 8, 22). Sometimes we also have a hard time looking beyond the here and now. It will help us to overcome disappointment when we realize that we do not belong to this world, and the things we lose in this world will be more than compensated in eternity (Mark 10:28-30)!

Continue Working in the Lord

Jesus’ preparation of the apostles for His departure involved a reminder of their work in relation to Him.

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser... Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit... If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:1-6)

In the face of their coming disappointment, the apostles needed to remember they had work to do! If it was possible for an apostle, if he did not continue bearing the characteristics of “the true vine,” to be cut off and cast into the fire, then it is certainly

possible for that to happen to us. No matter what our disappointments in this life may be, we must always remember the work the Lord has for us (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:7, 14; 3:8). We must abide and work in Him, remembering that “your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Be at Peace

Jesus closed the section of Scripture in which He prepared the apostles for His departure by offering them His peace. “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Disappointments are a part of this life. However, we do not have to allow them to keep us in a constant state of anxiety (Matthew 6:25-33). We must trust that God, as He has promised, will work “all things... together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Conclusion

We serve an awesome God! Whether we are disappointed in ourselves, in others or in circumstances beyond our control, there is hope! Whatever brings disappointment to our lives, God is able to make good come out of it. We have the assurance, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

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Really Hearing

By Gary C. Hampton

Gary Hampton Many mothers, maybe mine, have asked a child, “Did you hear me?” The question is often followed by an amazing answer that indicates the child heard every word. Mothers are thus frustrated knowing the child heard their words but did not act upon them.

God’s Word is able to save the soul and should be received with humble submission. God seemingly has the same frustrations as some mothers, since people hear the Word without doing anything, making hearing the Word of God an act of futility. Our Lord’s half-brother wrote, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:21-22). Guy N. Woods said the verb tense of the word “doers” denotes a continuous action.

The same action is seen in Paul’s description of some of those who Christ will judge worthy of vengeance. That group will not keep on obeying the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). We are deceived when we think all that we have to do is hear the truth. Hearing must produce a faith that acts. Such faith is produced by hearing God’s Word, as well as believing He exists and will reward those who diligently seek him (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6).

James used a parable (James 1:23-25) to illustrate the point of verse 22. A person who looks in a mirror to check his appearance but goes away without correcting the problems he sees is like the one who hears but does nothing. The other character in the parable “looks,” which Woods says means “to stoop and look, to gaze intently.” This man stands in stark contrast to the one who only glanced in the mirror and did nothing about the things he saw amiss. The one worthy of commendation carefully examines himself, intending to correct every flaw.

Each of us needs to set our sights on really hearing what God says. We can accomplish our purpose by carefully reading God’s Word to fully understand it. We, then, can demonstrate our hearing by doing what Scripture tells us to do.

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