

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES
DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE DISCIPLINE OF DISAPPOINTMENT

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

Week 20 of a 31-Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Christianity 101, Faith, Wisdom, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2 Corinthians 2:13

The Theme and Textual Summation of the Passage

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES
AND THE DISCIPLINES OF DISAPPOINTMENT

DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

DISAPPOINTMENT - The defeat or failure of an expectation, The defeat or failure of hope, a wish, a desire or an intention; the miscarriage of design or plan.

Noah Webster

"Disappointment must be well managed for If we hope for things of which we have not thoroughly considered of value, our disappointment will be greater than the pleasure derived from the fulfillment of them. We are prone to complain of the disappointment of our hopes and plans, but disappointments most often prove to be blessings and save us from great calamity or even ruin."

Matt. 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. :19 **Go therefore** and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, :20 **teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”

2Cor. 2:13a

I had no **rest** in my spirit, because...

In almost every case, Disappointment is managed or handled in the wrong way.

Jesus Warned Against The Mismanagement of Disappointment...

Matt. 13:21

...For when **tribulation** or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

THE DISCIPLINES OF DISAPPOINTMENT

1.) **Why do we experience disappointments ?**

When we place our expectations on ANYTHING other than the character of God, we set ourselves up for disappointment. This is reality, and it is the teaching of Scripture.

WHY DO WE EXPERIENCE DISAPPOINTMENT ?

1a.) **Disappointment comes from unreasonable expectations**

we need to have a well-balanced, secure mind right now on this.

our expectations need to be examined and challenged by reality.

are we asking from others what they cannot produce?

Lam. 3:24

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I **hope** (in Him!”

We must not set aside the pursuit of greatness or achievement or excellence – do your best for God’s glory and after having done your best – leave the results to Him.

This is America’s current problem;
Having “unreasonable expectations in government
We are setting ourselves up for a severe “disappointment.”

Here’s The Fix:

God word says...

John 15:11

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that your joy may be full.*”

John 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but **be of good cheer**; I have overcome the world.

WHY DO WE EXPERIENCE DISAPPOINTMENT ?

1b.) Disappointment comes **when hope is misplaced**

Gen. 3:4-6

Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. :5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be **like God**, knowing good and evil.” :6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

Here's The Fix:

God word says...

1Sam. 2:2

"No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You,
Nor is there any rock **like our God**.

We need to stop think **from the bottom up**,
And start thinking **from the top down** !

"God speaks to us **from the Top-Down**.
We need to stop speaking to God **from the Bottom-Up**"
(perspective)

2Kings 6:15-17

And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" :16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who *are* with us *are* more than those who *are* with them." :17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

WHY DO WE EXPERIENCE DISAPPOINTMENT ?

1c.) Disappointment comes **by others letting us down**

This is Just a Fact of Life - Deal With It

None set out to disappoint or to be disappointed – but it happens in life.

"Set Backs, Difficulties, Rejection", - its not the end of life !!!

When you read your Bible – God is speaking there in it,
He is Constantly Making Us Promises – Building Security

I've learned to stop making promises to people,
cause even though I want to, I have no real power to perform what I've promised.
I could be **late**. I could **forget**, I could change my **mind**, I could drop **dead**....

Here's The Fix:

God word says...

Psa. 61:1-3
Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. :2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. :3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

Parents sometimes Place a Huge “burden” upon they're child's life.
They seek to live out their “expectations” vicariously through their child.

Encourage your child, support your child, and pray for you child
(but always let them know that no matter what the outcome is – you love em')

The Parable of The Prodigal Son

(the father's love is the real meaning to the story)

Eph. 3:20
Now to Him (*your Father in heaven*) who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

THE DISCIPLINES OF DISAPPOINTMENT

2.) Preparing for the disappointments of life

2a.) Requires us to grow up in spiritual matters

There's literally no “Biblical” excuse for you to come up to me and say “why would God allow me to lose my job”

**Or my child is now in college and she's turned into
A anti American, antichrist, socialist, idiot**

The Answers Are All There in The Scriptures - Clear as Day

We need to grow up and decide to be mature.

Here's The Fix:

God word says...

2Tim. 2:15-16

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the **word of truth**. :16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Eph. 4:15-18

but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. :17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should **no longer walk** as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, :18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

PREPARING FOR THE DISAPPOINTMENTS OF LIFE

2b.) Causes us to see God's unwavering faithfulness

The Bible is full of accounts and events that prove that -
Unless man is led and guided by God things don't go very well.

Prov. 16:25

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Here's The Fix:

God word says...

Heb. 4:16

Let us therefore **come** (*keep on coming*) boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Deut. 7:9

“Therefore know that the LORD your God, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

PREPARING FOR THE DISAPPOINTMENTS OF LIFE

2c.) **Develops within us a happy and thankful spirit**

Psa. 51:10

Create in me **a clean heart, O God;**
and renew a right spirit within me.

There is a Great Danger in being Unthankful
(it reveals a twisted side to a person)

Rom. 1:21

because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, **nor were thankful**, but became futile in there thoughts, and they're foolish hearts were darkened.

Here's The Fix:

God word says...

Matt. 15:34-37

Jesus said to them, “**How many loaves do you have?**” ¶ And they said, “Seven, and a few little fish.” :**35** So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. :**36** And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples; and the disciples *gave* to the multitude. :**37** So they all ate and were filled,

THE DISCIPLINES OF DISAPPOINTMENT

3.) How do we overcome the disappointments

HOW DO WE OVERCOME THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ?

3a.) By uniting our will to God's will

I Most Often Create the Situation for My Disappointment.
I begin to think, say or do what I think should be thought, said or done.

Here's The Fix:

God word says...

Psa. 139:1-4

O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. :2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. :3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. :4 For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

Luke 22:41-42

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, :42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

HOW DO WE OVERCOME THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ?

3b.) By prioritizing the words and people in our lives

Matt. 11:19c

Wisdom is justified by her children."

There are some people you need to stop being around.

You can minimize your disappointments by selecting a whole new healthy group of godly friends – you will become like your friends – no exceptions

Here's The Fix:

God word says...

Eph. 5:11-12

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. :12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

HOW DO WE OVERCOME THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ?

3c.) By giving the hurt to God and leaving it with Him

example: many people today are wounded and hurt by being abused or injured by those who' they once trusted in life. The younger you are, the worse it is.

unhealed hurts cause us to recoil, to withdraw.

This is a very effective, satanic trick.

Do you have "daddy" hurts ?

What "mom" hurts or "brother" or "sister" or "friend" hurts?

Here's The Fix:

God word says...

2Cor. 10:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: :4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) :5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; :6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

1Pet. 5:7

Casting all your **care** upon him; for he careth for you.
care = anxieties, worries, distraction

Regarding The Bible's Great Promises

Heb. 6:19

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul,

1John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. :3 And everyone who has **this hope** in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Church - Lets Get Fixed Right Now. Lets Kneel if Possible.

Phil. 4:6-7

Be **anxious** for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; :7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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