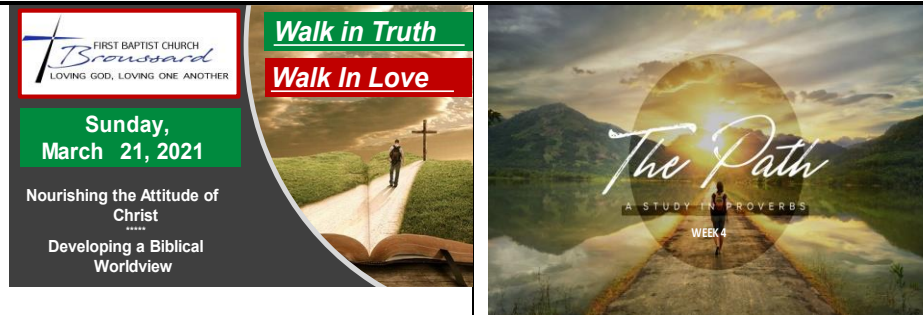


March 21, 2021

Walk in Truth, Walk In Love Pt 12

The Path To Wisdom - Part 5



Key Principle No 1:

Your Direction, Not Your Intention, Determines Your Destination

Key Principle No 2:

We Must Put Our Hearts Into Wisdom's Quest For Truth

Key Principle No 3:

We Need Wise Counsel From Others As We Travel On The Path of Life

Key Principle No 4:

Your Attention Determines Your Direction

Key Principle No 5:

You Must Learn To Deal With Disappointments & Setbacks

The following material is partially adapted from a purchased permission from Sermon Central.com series 'The Path' by Hal Seed. New Song Community Church, Oceanside, CA
Loosely based off the Andy Stanley Book "The Principle of the Path"

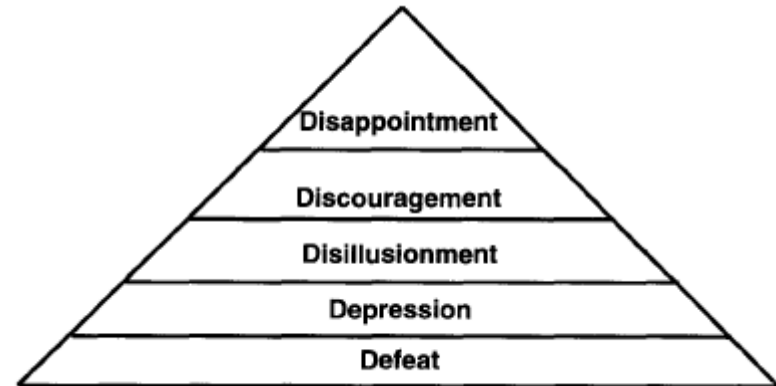
The Bible says,

Proverbs 13:12...*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life"*.

That's true, isn't it? When you realize your dream is unrealizable, your heart gets sick. It's the natural first reaction. We ache, we hurt, we wake up gasping in the middle of the night.

Adapted from TARA ZIEGMONT. <https://feelslikehomeblog.com/2013/04/13-bible-verses-to-overcome-disappointment/> and Hal Seed "The Path"

Disappointment (noun): the feeling of sadness or displeasure caused by the defeat of one's hopes or expectations.



<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-14-dealing-disappointment>

We must be careful not to let our disappointments lead us into a downward trajectory. Satan would love to use your disappointments to bring about discouragement, which leads to disillusionment, depression and ultimately defeat. We must remember this verse

1 Corinthians 15:57... *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans 8:31-39...³¹ *What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?* ³² *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?* ³³ *Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.* ³⁴ *Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.* ³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?* ³⁶ *As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."* ³⁷ *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* ³⁸ *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Dealing With Disappointments & Setbacks

1. BELIEVE IN GOD'S PLAN.

Our God is a miracle worker. He can part waters, move boulders, heal the dead (not just the sick, remember, the dead), save, destroy, bless, and curse. He can do anything, everything, things beyond our comprehension.

Proverbs 3:5-8... *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.*

Isaiah 55:8-9 ...*“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”* –

When I say you have to believe, I mean you have to believe that God has got this thing in His hands. He is looking out for you. He is working out a plan that is bigger than you, and you are going to be better for it in the end.

Jeremiah 29:11...*“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”* -

Romans 8:28...*“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him and all called according to His purpose...”*

Sometimes, it takes a painful disappointment to teach us a skill or strengthen our faith or to put us in the right place at the right time. We don't know His ways or His thoughts. We just have to believe in His promise.

2. ACCEPT THAT IT'S OK TO GRIEVE AND FEEL HEARTSICK

“Things have not gone the way you wanted. Your hopes and expectations have been defeated. You need to spend some quiet time being sad, mourning the way you thought things would be.

Psalm 34:18...*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.* -

Cry. Exercise. Read. Do whatever it is that releases the sadness, the disappointment, the defeat. And then, eventually, you have to stop grieving and move on.

Psalm 30:5...*Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.* –

Disappointment is not meant to define you. It is not meant to hold you hostage or weigh you down into the mire of depression. Don't give it that power”. (Ziegmont)

When you are heartsick, you either stay there and get bitter or work at it and get better.

As a seventeen-year-old, Joseph had all the dreams in the world. He had a literal dream that one day he would rule over his father and brothers. Then he found himself in slavery, and the dream died. His heart must have been beyond sick.

Daniel, at about the same age, found himself chained to other young Israelites and dragged hundreds of miles into exile in a foreign country. His heart must have been sick. Would he get bitter or would he get better?

King David got word one day that his newborn son was probably going to die. How would he deal with that?

The Apostle Paul found himself with a physical disease. He called it a “thorn in his flesh.” We don't know what that was exactly, but it was a handicap that likely severely limited him. We don't know what Paul had, but he despaired over it. His heart was sick.

Then there's Jesus. The Bible says that on the night before He was crucified, He went to the Garden and prayed about the kind of death He was facing. He prayed, "Father, if there is any way we can do this without me having to die on the Cross, please take this fate away from me." He was so anguished about it, he actually sweated drops of blood.

3. YOU CAN PRAY FERVENTLY, WAIT AND LISTEN FOR GOD'S VOICE

Paul prayed fervently three times:

2 Corinthians 12:9...*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness".*

Paul found a way to believe that God's grace was sufficient for him, that God's power would be even better displayed in his weakness, in his physical infirmity.

"Spend some time talking to your Heavenly Father. Tell Him your heartache. Tell Him about the plans you had and ask Him to show you why He's taken them away. I promise you that *He has good in this for you*, and it's okay to ask Him what that good is. Talk to Him like you'd talk to your best friend. Your prayer doesn't have to be pretty or sound like one at your church. It just has to be honest and come from your heart".

Psalms 55:22...*Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall. -*

You, my friend, are the godly. You are chasing after God, trying to do the right thing, seeking a better understanding of Him. Aren't you? He's talking about you". (Ziegmont)

Philippians 4:6-7...*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. -*

In the midst of prayer, it is possible to hear God's voice.

Psalms 27:14...*Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord. -*

Matthew 6:6...*But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

4. YOU CAN ACCEPT REALITY AND FIND THE GOOD IN IT, AND USE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT FOR GOD'S GLORY

What do you do when you're heartsick & dissatisfied?
How can you avoid bitterness and work toward "betterness"?

We must avoid at all costs the temptation to become bitter.

2 Cor. 9:7-10...*Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Whatever it was Paul had, he determined to use it for God's glory.

When Jesus was facing his darkest moment, wrestling with the unreachable destination of staying alive and avoiding the agony of the Cross, he chose this option. He prayed fervently,
Matthew 26:39...*"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will".*

The second time he prayed about not having to face his inevitable hardship, his prayer changed slightly:

Matthew 26:42...*"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done".*

"He accepted reality, found the good in it, and determined to use his hardship for God's glory. In this case, for the saving of mankind. Can you imagine how sick Jesus' heart must have been in those closing moments before his arrest? He was a man who knew everything, so he knew what was coming. He knew his hope was going to have to defer to another day, or, in his case, to another life. To his future life after the grave. Some of us must do that as well.

Our hope is deferred because we realize that our dreams probably aren't going to come true. We probably aren't going to get married, or get married again... at least not for a long, long time. We probably aren't going to be able to keep our home, or keep our job, or get the promotion we always wanted, or have the kind of health that we assumed would be ours. Hope deferred makes the heart sick.

This is a reality of life on earth, friends. Earth is earth—it is not heaven. Jesus said,

Matthew 16:33...*In this world you will have trouble, BUT take heart! I have overcome the world.*

I don't know a single person who has had all their dreams fulfilled. I suspect it wouldn't even be healthy if they did. There is something that softens us, something that enables us to admit we are not all that, something humbling (in a positive way) about not having all our dreams fulfilled." (Ziegmont).

Joseph's heart was sick. He was a slave and then a prisoner. Then one day he was summoned before Pharaoh, and his dreams began to be fulfilled in ways he could never have imagined. He became Prime Minister and saved all of Egypt, and his own family, from starvation. He saw his brothers bow down before him and his father fall to his knees in gratitude to God that his treasured son was really alive and doing so well.

Most often, God leaves us with a thorn in the flesh, an obstacle or two that we have to learn to trust him with. That can be a good thing in itself. But sometimes, sometimes he does a good thing that is more than exactly what we wanted—it's beyond what we could have asked or imagined.

I believe that every dead and dying dream is in the hand of God today. He knows about your dream. He cares about your dream. And he cares about you more. So he may not restore the dream, but never believe that he can't, or he won't, if it is truly good for us.

Jesus faced his worst nightmare in going to the Cross. There was no dream-fulfillment there. Only pain. But God made good out of it: the salvation of mankind.

4. CHOOSE TO HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Habakkuk 3:17,18...*Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD. I will be joyful in God my Savior.*

Job 1:21,22...*"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18...*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

So What Do You Do When Disappointments And Setbacks Come?

1. **Believe In God's Plan.**
2. **Accept That It's Ok To Grieve And Feel Heartsick**
3. **You Can Pray Fervently, Wait And Listen For God's Voice**
4. **You Can Accept Reality And Find The Good In It, And Use Your Disappointment For God's Glory**
5. **Choose To Have An Attitude Of Gratitude**