

Doorway of Disappointment - Keys to the Kingdom Part 5

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During the pandemic I experienced a situation with my family that caused several of us to have a falling out. My mom owns two jet skis and she and I ended up stranded in an unfamiliar body of water at night, with dead cell phones. The day started off beautifully. My mom wanted to celebrate my nephew's birthday so she told him to invite some of his friends over to ride the jet skis. As the day went on, they stayed on the water too long and when it was time take the jet skis back to the dock, I was the only adult available to go with my mom. This put her at a disadvantage because I was not the person who had gone with her to bring the jet skis to the house and I didn't know this water.

She and I somehow got lost and a 30 minute trip turned into hours. Our cell phones died but before they did, we called a member of our family who lived nearby to come and get us, but he did not want to leave his house to come. At this point it was getting dark. So she and I had no help, no cell phones, then one of our jet skis ran low on gas and cut off. We were in dark, in the center of water. Eventually, we were able find a rope in one jet ski and we used it to pull the second one to a pier. Once we tied the jet skis up and climbed onto the pier, we were able to locate an electrical socket to plug in our phones and we called the coast guard, who eventually came to give us a tow. We were scared, cold, wet, and very upset by this time, but most off, we were disappointed at this family member. When we made it back to the house, I went off, and I gave my family member a piece of my mind. I thought: *this could have been a life or death situation, and he simply discarded us.* My disappointment led to anger, which led to contention, then a falling out between our family.

All throughout the Bible we see examples of great disappointment.

- whether its Abraham and Sarah who waited for 40 years to receive their promise from God
- Or in the life of Joseph, the dreamer who was put into a pit by his own brothers, then sold into slavery, wrongfully accused of sexual assault and sentenced to prison.
- Or, Moses, a Hebrew, who after growing up in Egyptian privilege, wanted to help his people. So when he saw an Egyptian beating his fellow Hebrew brother, he killed the Egyptian and hid the body. Instead of thanking Moses, his own people rejected him and Pharaoh sought to now kill him – which caused Moses to flee to Midian; he became a shepherd for 40 years.
- There are so many stories of disappointment and discouragement in the Bible. Even in the life of Jesus. As He prepared to journey to the cross for the sins of the world, His own friends and disciples fell asleep while praying then they denied that they even knew Him.

If we were to stop at the disappointments documented in the narratives I just mentioned or anywhere in the Bible, we would believe that these stories ended there... and we would forget that ultimately the Bible is about The Good News.

The stories didn't end there. The disappointments did not indicate the end of the story; they were simply chapters in a greater book with a positive ending.

Whenever there is disappointment in the life of a believer, God has already planned a comeback. God has already planned a resurrection. Romans 8:28 tells us that all things work together for the Good of those who love God and who are called according to His purpose. This is a Word that should help us believe despite disappointments.

- God fulfilled Sarah and Abraham's promise of a child and made them the father and mother of many nations, just as He had said.

- Joseph's dream did in fact come true. God eventually put him in the position second in line after Pharaoh and he was a ruler of the land. And due to his years of suffering and obedience, he rose in rank and also in wisdom to eventually become the redeemer and restorer for his family.

- God transformed Moses from a sheep herder to a true shepherd, leader and prophet. He led his people out of captivity, and although he himself didn't make it to the promised land, he was able to see it. He was able to prepare the next leader after him.

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The Kingdom Key for this month and this session is to recognize and process your disappointments in a healthy way before they become the doorway to the devil.

Let's talk about it – The Doorway of Disappointment

Google defines disappointment as sadness or displeasure caused by the nonfulfillment of one's hopes or expectations.

Disappointment becomes a doorway to the devil when it

- causes us to forfeit our faith

In Mark Chapter 5, Jairus the ruler of the synagogue asked Jesus to come and lay hands on his sick daughter, and while he was on the way, Jesus was interrupted to heal a woman, and another person came up and told Jairus that his daughter had already died – but what was Jesus' response? Mark 5:36 says that Jesus told Jairus Don't be afraid; only believe.

When disappointments and devastation arises, it comes to snatch our faith and put us in a fearful state. But Jesus didn't want Jairus to hear those naysayers and negative voices – Jesus knew what was coming next so He told Jairus, don't be afraid – only believe. We too must only listen to the voice of the Lord and sometimes that will require us to ignore the voices that are telling us the reality of a situation, because reality and what we see with our eyes is not always God's will or desired outcome.

Disappointment becomes a doorway to the devil when it

- leads to despair, hopelessness and depression

Proverbs 13:12

**Hope deferred makes the heart [mind, will, emotions/feelings] sick
[weak/afflicted], but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.**

We can't operate in our fullest potential as kings and priests when our hearts are sick, because out of our hearts flow the issues of the life. The enemy wants the disappointment to get us to be depressed, in despair and without hope, because we won't be on our A game.

Disappointment becomes a doorway to the devil when it

- leads to murmuring and complaining (against God... this is rebellious)

In the wilderness, after God rescued the Israelites, they continued to complain and murmur

Read

Numbers 14:2-3

Numbers 14:26-29

Note that God called them "evil" for complaining.

Also note that the words they had spoken is what God gave to them. So the enemy would love it if our disappointment leads us to speaking death out of our mouths, because it makes his job easier.

Disappointment becomes a doorway to the devil when it

- causes us to become critical of ourselves, others, and God

Disappointment becomes a doorway to the devil when it

- prompts us to go into self-pity or self-loathing

Disappointment becomes a doorway to the devil when it

- leads to feelings (or the spirit of) of rejection

Disappointment becomes a doorway to the devil when it

- shows up in the form of anger, bitterness, and resentfulness

NOW

We are going to experience disappointment but we have to process these feelings according to the guidelines set out by God.

Disappointment can become a doorway to a move of God when

- 1.

- **We can grieve, mourn, and lament** (lament is a passionate expression of grief or sorrow). We don't have to ignore our feelings; we can acknowledge them, express them, talk to God and even others about them.

In Gethsemane Jesus said, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them." – Mark 3:34

Psalm 22:1-2

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.^b

Disappointment can become a doorway to a move of God when

2. Remind yourself of who God is and what He has done. [He can still turn things around; there's always hope in Him.]

Psalm 22:3-5

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.^a

⁴ In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.

⁵ To you they cried out and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

Disappointment can become a doorway to a move of God when

3. We put the disappointment into perspective. Remember that God is sovereign. If you have not won, the story isn't over yet.

Remember Romans 8:28.

Remember Jesus... that He
resurrected from the dead.

Disappointment can become a doorway to a move of God when

4. We stay connected to God and other believers.

Remain in prayer & praise ... even when it hurts. Fellowship with others, because isolation is an invitation to the enemy.

Disappointment can become a doorway to a move of God when

5. We seek obedience.

God establishes His kingdom through our obedience that often comes from suffering (and disappointment is a form of suffering).

Scripture References: Hebrew 5:8-9; Acts 5:32; Romans 10:16; 2 Thess. 1:8; 1 Peter 1:220

We gain spiritual authority by being obedient through suffering.

Excerpt from *Spiritual Authority* by Watchman Nee

"As God secured the principle of obedience through the life of our Lord, so God also established His authority through the Lord. ... The Lord came to this world empty-handed; He did not bring obedience with Him. He learned obedience through what He suffered and thus became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. By going through suffering after suffering He learned to be obedient unto death, even death on a cross. When the Lord came forth from the Godhead to become man, He truly became a man – weak and acquainted with suffering. Every suffering He bore ripened into a fruit of obedience. No suffering of any kind was able to stir him to murmuring or fretfulness." Pp. 53-54

Now let me return to the story I told you earlier.

This disappointment with my family member that night when my mom and I was stranded on the water led to a big fallout. I didn't think this person cared about us, and it brought up feelings of rejection – and I felt like this person only cared about his new family. My family didn't talk for quite some time, but immediately the next day, the Holy Spirit convicted me. I wanted to be mad and completely disown this family member, but God wouldn't let me. After wrestling with the Lord for a few days or possibly even weeks he had me to apologize and forgive. We've slowly been able to rebuild our relationship, but my reaction to the disappointment enabled the devil to have a field day in my family.

It also revealed my heart. I believe that sometimes the Lord will allow disappointments in our lives – to reveal our hearts – mainly to correct and purify our hearts... especially for where God is taking us next. Because a few days after this incident, I met my husband and by the end of that year, I was married. Next I moved to Houston, came to Windsor, and my life changed. God elevated me, but He had to deal with my heart first.

So I want to leave you with this:

Will you trust the Lord in your disappointment?

Will you stay obedient, connected?

Will you remember that God is sovereign and all the ways He showed up in the past?

Will you allow yourself to grieve and lament without murmuring and complaining?

Let's pray.

Be sure to repent of the words you said out of moments of disappointment.