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DISAPPOINTED

Those Who Trust the Lord Shall Not Be Disappointed

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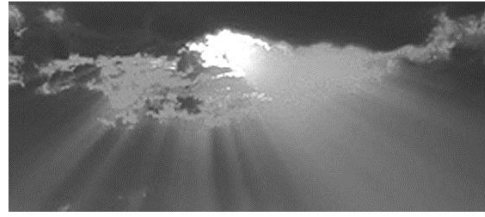
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One Significant Morning

My head shot straight up off the pillow. Was it a noise or had it just been a dream? Scanning my memory and discovering no recent reveries of any significance, I peeked through the blinds to find only the dog stretched out sleepily in the early morning sun. Obviously, whatever had startled me had been my own imagination, yet I sensed that something was different about this particular morning.

A quick glance at the bedside alarm clock let me know that there was no time to lie there and ponder my feelings. Laying aside all reasoning I let my feet hit the floor, not knowing that a new chapter in my life was about to begin. Little did I realize that this day would open a whole new avenue of truth that would help shape my future in a way that very few other things had ever done.

I was soon so busy getting breakfast for my husband, Jack, and our two children, Angelia and Bill, that I scarcely noticed the thought that floated quietly through my mind the first time—“*Those who trust the Lord will not be disappointed.*”

Very soon, after everyone had gone out the door, each one headed toward his respective destination, the thought came through a little stronger—“*Those who trust the Lord will not be disappointed!*” Still distracted by my busy schedule I was still not paying much attention to that recurring thought, until it became an almost audible voice. To my knowledge I had never remembered reading that scripture in the

Bible. Or was it a scripture? Where was a thought like that coming from?

The Search Begins

All day I found myself almost subconsciously quoting that same phrase over and over again—“Those who trust the Lord will not be disappointed.” But by afternoon it was no longer subconscious. I realized something very unusual was happening. Finally, my lightning-fast mind recognized that God was giving me something important that He wanted me to hear!

By this time my curiosity had come into play, and I began to search through my Bible until I found the passage from 1 Peter that I’ve quoted below, from the *New American Standard Bible*. At that point I was completely hooked, and I soon found myself in the middle of a full-fledged Bible search. The King James Version of 1 Peter 2:6 said “*he that believeth on him shall not be confounded,*” but when I looked up that verse in *Strong’s New Testament Greek Concordance* I found that the word translated there as *confounded* also meant “ashamed” or “disappointed.” The Lord was obviously dealing with me in the area of disappointment.

I would not have considered myself a person prone to disappointment. However, over the next few days the Lord began to show me that most Christians never go on to get total victory in any area, because at some point they get disappointed. And even though they may never consciously realize it, deep down most disappointments are disappointments in God, whereby a person subconsciously thinks that God didn’t come through for them. Or, that He let them down in some area.

In my search through the Bible to find out what God had to say about disappointment, the first scripture to which I was led did not seem to fit the subject.

“And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me.”

(Matthew 11:6, NASB, 1973)

However, though I had always prayed not to stumble I couldn't quite see what stumbling had to do with disappointment. So God led me next to the portion of scripture in which Peter was quoting from the prophet Isaiah:

6 For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in him will not be disappointed.”

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone,”

8 and, “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

(I Peter 2:6-8)

Suddenly I realized why Matthew 11:6 said what it did, and what it had to do with disappointment. First Peter 2:6-8 very plainly says, “He who believes in Him (i.e., ‘He who trusts in Him’) will not be disappointed.” And then it goes right on to say that the one who does not trust in Him will become disappointed, making the Rock [Jesus, the Word] become a *Stone (or a Rock) of stumbling*.

In other words, any time disappointment is allowed in we get offended with someone or some thing and we begin to stumble. It is *choosing not to be disappointed* that keeps us anchored in trust, and *trust is the state of being that keeps us from stumbling*.

It Starts with Trust

Now...let's talk about trust for a moment. Trust in God takes in more than just our eternal salvation. Godly trust starts with the new birth experience when we trust Him as our Savior, but if we do not learn to trust God in every area of life we will eventually, at some point, become subconsciously disappointed in God and when that happens the Rock becomes a Rock of stumbling. In other words, the Word becomes a stumbling block.

The Lord showed me a perfect example of this in John 6:53, when Jesus told His followers that unless they were willing to eat His flesh and drink His blood they would have no life in them. They didn't understand (verse 60) and were unwilling to trust Him; therefore, the Word became a stumbling block to them. Verse 66 tells us that as a result of this teaching many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him any more. A spiritual stumbling always comes as a result of lack of trust in God.

Having long been determined to guard myself from stumbling in my walk with God—perhaps even fearing it to some extent from having watched others fall away—I was ready to hear everything that God had to show me about disappointment. I began to search through the Word and found this truth about disappointment reiterated over and over—*those who trust the Lord shall not be disappointed*—shall not stumble! Twice in the same letter to the Romans Paul quoted from the Old Testament, admonishing the people in Rome that their best protection against stumbling in their faith would be in continuing to keep their trust in God fresh and alive.

*Just as it is written, behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and He who **believes** [i.e., trusts] in Him will not be disappointed.*

(Romans 9:33, emphasis added)

For the scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."

(Romans 10:11)

Even the Psalms taught this same truth!

In Thee they trusted and were not disappointed.
(Psalm 22:5)

I found this truth paraphrased over and over throughout the Old and New Testament, and in several places it was a direct quote: *Those who trust in the Lord will not be disappointed.* Very few promises are repeated that many times. Obviously the Lord wanted me to get that message fully embedded down in my spirit, but little did I know just how much it was going to change the direction of my life!

I remember arguing, “But Lord, I think I do trust you, but sometimes the Word looks like it’s not working, and I get confused, and even disappointed . . . but that doesn’t mean I’m not trusting You!” That’s when the Lord began to show me that trust and disappointment are exact opposites. And just as fear and faith are opposites and cannot operate at the same time, trust and disappointment cannot both operate at the same time.

Notice the tenses in this scripture! Those who trust (*trusting* is present tense) shall not be disappointed (*shall not be* is future tense). This is a promise with a condition, meaning that if we trust and continue to trust (in the present), every single time we won’t be disappointed (in the future).

On the other hand, it does not say that opportunities for disappointment won’t present themselves. Temptations to doubt the Lord will come. That’s a fact! But when those opportunities come the ball is then in your court. The decision is yours, and it becomes your choice to either (1) fall for the opportunity to be disappointed or (2) to continue to trust God no matter what things look like at the moment, trusting that the time will come when you are truly not disappointed.

That boggled my mind at first, but I have since found it to be an absolute truth. *Those who trust in the Lord shall not be disappointed—literally.* But, trusting is the prerequisite before we see the outcome.

You Don't Have to Feel Like It!

The next big question in my mind was, “How can I know if I am operating in trust?” The Lord showed me that I should turn it around and look at it from the opposite direction. If I found myself wallowing in feelings of disappointment then I would know that I was not operating in Trust. That became my barometer.

The Lord began to show me that we make it much harder than it needs to be. We try to make trust an *emotion*. We struggle and strive to try to muster up *feelings* of trust, yet that is not true trust! Trust, just like faith, starts by simply making an irrevocable decision to believe God's Word, then reclining in His arms and leaving the rest to Him.

Trust is a decision! It is not a feeling! Trust is also a resolution that we activate when we say to God, from our hearts:

I don't care what the situation looks like. I don't care what my reasoning ability is dictating to me—I am just not going there! And I also don't care if it looks as though You didn't come through. I don't care what the world says. I don't care what negative reports come down the pike. I don't care what my emotions are dictating; I have made up my mind that from this day forth I am going to steadfastly trust what You have said. I will be obedient to do what You tell me to do; I will make Your Word my final authority; and then I will rest in You.

And, when feelings of disappointment try to crowd in, I will make that my warning signal, and I will stop and renew my choice to trust in You. Then

Lord, the rest is up to You.”

It is really as simple as that. You don't have to “feel” anything! This has to be an act of your will, not of your emotions. It has to be something you do on purpose, based on the promises God has clearly made, rather than something you do only if you happen to feel like it at the moment.

Disappointments Be Gone!

The Lord gave me a simple little statement to say out loud every time I am faced with an opportunity to be disappointed. I am simply to say, “Lord, in this particular situation (name the situation) I choose to trust You.” I have probably repeated that one phrase more than 10,000 times. And quite frankly, I don't know what it is but there is something about saying it out loud that kicks the whole process into gear and releases the trust.

You won't necessarily be able to prevent certain thoughts from knocking at your mind's door, but you can control which thoughts you allow in and think through—fear and doubt thoughts and “what if” thoughts. Once you open up your mind's door to mull over the possibility that the Word might not work every time, out goes the trust and in comes the disappointment. And at that point the Rock (the Word) becomes a stumbling block.

- **I am giving you life and death information today that can keep your spiritual walk from taking a big detour!** And I am not talking about positive thinking. I am talking about choosing to trust in God's Word to the extent that you develop an expectancy that God will do *exactly what He promises*.

- **This is also not a passive trust or a “whatever will be will be” kind of trust!** This is a deep commitment that says, “Lord, I am trusting You in the middle of this impossible situation, and I know the time will come that I will not be disappointed—so *I am making the choice not to allow feelings of disappointment to overtake me now.*”

In the simplest possible terms you are activating an expectancy in—and a dependency on—God’s integrity!

This is also not a mind over matter situation in which you refuse to think about your situation until it either goes away or gets better. You are not psyching yourself up; on the contrary, I am talking about a supernatural intervention. God says, “If you trust Me you will not be disappointed.” God is big enough to work out any situation, no matter how impossible it looks. His Word tells us that He is the God of the impossible. But the degree to which we trust Him determines the degree of victory we will experience, because trust is basically the medium of exchange here.

You can’t pay God but you can trust Him, and that’s exactly what He wants you to do.

Now...there will be times when things don’t look so good, when you can see no possibility that a given situation can ever work out right. Those are the times when you need to make it a determination—a challenge—to trust God without reservation, because at that moment you will either win or lose the battle. When trusting becomes a way of life, your life will become the most thrilling and exhilarating existence in the world. There is nothing more exciting than to constantly anticipate, in faith, how God is going to work out our impossible circumstances.

So...beginning with that one significant morning and throughout

the next year, I awoke practically every morning and went to sleep almost every night quoting, “those who trust God will not be disappointed.” It became a household phrase—a family motto. Little did we know that God was preparing us to learn how to walk in an exciting, peaceful state of victory we had never before known.

I am now going to share some of the stories of how God intervened in our lives in situation after situation, with this trust versus disappointment reality, while we were getting this foundational principle established within ourselves as individuals and within our family as a unit.

But first, I want to remind you of one secret that is paramount to everything else. There can be no real, lasting trust in God apart from a *love walk* with Him. Only to someone we have known and experienced personally can we ultimately release trust—someone with whom we have invested enough time to know intimately.

Thus says the Lord, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord... Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord.”
(Jeremiah 17:5,7)

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