

4WS

SEP 1, 2024

TURN DISAPPOINTMENT INTO BLESSINGS. TRUST GOD.

WORSHIP

- PRAISE
- This is How We Overcome
- The Praise is Yours
- Throne of Praise

WELCOME

Have you been disappointed about something lately? Or do you feel like you have been a disappointment to God and others?

How does disappointment affect the way you live your life and relate to others and God?



WORD

Disappointments are an inevitable part and parcel of life, it is real, affecting all areas such as our career, finances, relationships, health, and family. When our current reality does not match our expectations, it is important to remember that we have a choice. What happens to us is outside of our control, but how we respond is within our control. We must learn to take responsibility. There are two choices; we can either have a negative approach towards life or a 'faith approach' towards life.

James 1:2-4, "Consider it all **joy**, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various **trials**, knowing that the **testing of your faith** produces endurance. And let **endurance** have its perfect result, so that you may be **perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing."

God is especially concerned with moulding and developing our character to reflect Christlikeness, which is of eternal value. And so, in all circumstances, we are encouraged to trust God.

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight."

2 Corinthians 5:7, "for we walk by faith, not by sight."

However, it is difficult to trust someone we barely know. How then do we trust God? Trusting God means we have the responsibility to know Him, His love for us and His character. The story of Lazarus's death and resurrection in John 11:1-45 teaches us how to trust in God.

1. Trust God's love (John 11:1-5)

John 11:4-5, " But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not meant for death, but is **for the glory of God**, so that **the Son of God may be glorified by it.**" (Now **Jesus loved** Martha and her sister, and Lazarus.)"

When something bad happens to us, as in the case of Lazarus, as bad as it is, let us remember to trust God's character and His love for us. That in any difficult situation we find ourselves in, God is with us as we undergo and experience uncertainties and challenges. It is for the glory of God. We are reminded not to trust our circumstances but to trust God that He loves us. The root of all sin is the suspicion that God is not good. May we never judge God based on our

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circumstances, instead we must learn to trust God and judge circumstances based on who God is.

To trust God is to believe that God loves us.

Romans 8: 28-32, “28 And we know that God causes **all things to work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose... 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 **He who did not spare His own Son**, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”

2. Trust God’s timing (John 11:6-7)

John 11:6, “ So when He heard that he was sick, He then **stayed two days longer** in the place where He was.”

Waiting is part of the process of becoming what God wants us to be.

Psalm 27:13-14, “I certainly believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. **Wait for the Lord**; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, **wait for the Lord.**”

Wait for the Lord. Trust God, He is seldom early but never too late.

3. Trust God’s wisdom (John 11:11,14-15,17,20-23)

John 11:14-15, “So Jesus then said to them plainly, “**Lazarus died**, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, **so that you may believe**; but let’s go to him.”

In Christianity, death is not the end, death is not a period but a comma. God loves you, he knows what’s best for you but are you willing to trust Him?

Isaiah 55:8-9, “**For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,**’ declares the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

You can choose to live your way which may lead to regrets. Trust God because God’s way is your best option.

4. Trust God’s promises (John 11:24-26,33-35,38-39,43-45)

John 11:25-26, “ Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life**; the one who **believes** in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and



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believes in Me will never die. Do you **believe** this?””

Jesus claimed and promised he is the resurrection and the life, no other religion had the same claim.

In verse 35, Jesus wept. A very profound verse that tells us God empathises with us. God sees and knows your pain and problems. He cares.

John 11:39,”Jesus said, “**Remove the stone.**” Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that **if you believe, you will see the glory of God?**”

To believe is to see the glory of God. To walk by faith and not by sight means to walk based on the promises of God, not based on your understanding or feelings. Believe in the promises of God.

Jesus said remove the stone. To trust God you must obey - remove the stone. Jesus called Lazarus to come out and when the Jews saw this miracle, they believed in Him.

Like in this story, God can use your trials into blessings, if you trust Him, if you surrender.

What is preventing you from experiencing God’s blessing in your life? In the story, Jesus told Mary and Martha to move the stone. What is that stone in your life that God is asking you to move? It may be the stone of unbelief or a sinful relationship, no matter what it is, God is telling you to move that stone and you will see the glory of God.

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WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants for both Singapore and the Philippines.
- God's help and comfort for the Sudanese people caught in violence and conflict.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; tension in East Asian and Middle East countries to stop.
- Continue to pray for the rest of Israeli hostages to be restored back to their families safely. Pray for Israel and the war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory.
- For the recent political and social upheaval in the US to result in spiritual awakening in the church and a great spiritual harvest.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, leaders, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is there any area in your life where you are disappointed and how is your heart or attitude towards God in light of that disappointment?
2. As you entrust that aspect of your life to God, what is God asking you to focus on? Is it to trust His love, His timing, His wisdom and/or His promises?
3. As you commit to trust and obey God in whatever challenging situation you are undergoing, what practical ways would you do to have a heart rested on God's promises?