



Proverbs 4
Responding to Disappointment
02.16.20

Romans 8:28-29 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,*

“With time and perspective most of us can see good reason for at least *some* of the tragedy and pain that occurs in life. Why couldn’t it be possible that, **from God’s vantage point, there are good reasons for all of them?**” Tim Keller

“Our bad things will turn out for our good, (**Rom. 8:28**) our good things can never really be lost, (**Heb. 6:10**), and the best things are yet to come.” (**Rom. 8:18, 2 Cor. 4:16-18**) Jonathan Edwards

Romans 11:33-36 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

Proverbs 4:23 *Keep (guard, watch over) your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.*

Heart work is hard work. Guard it with all diligence and vigilance (care and effort).

Heart work is important work. What rules your heart rules your life!

Heart work is rewarding work. God honors those who honor Him (**John 12:26, Hebrews 11:6**).

2 Chronicles 16:9 *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.*

We do what we do because we want what we want because of the desires within our heart.

If our desires are in conflict with God, then our heart is vulnerable to deception which results in personal and interpersonal conflicts.

Luke 9:23-24 *Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take **up his cross daily**, and **follow Me**. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.*

- To deny self is to surrender our right to go our own way as a means of following Christ.
- Self-denial results in a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. (**Philippians 3:7-11**)
- Jesus teaches that there’s a high cost in following Him, but there’s a much greater cost in *not* following! **1 Thessalonians 1:6-12**

Disappointment > Discouragement > Doubt > Despair > Depression > Departure

Disappointment | *1 Peter 4:12-19, Psalm 10, Psalm 73*

Wisdom helps us see the difference between realistic and unrealistic expectations! A skilled life asks heart-searching questions. Were my expectations fair? Was I sinned against, or did I have my feelings hurt or opinions challenged?

Romans 15:4-6 & 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 teaches us that the Old Testament events are recorded as examples for our benefit in our walk with Christ.

Two wrong responses in 1 Corinthians 10:1-13:

1. Over-confident – I would never treat God that way (v12).
2. Over-whelmed – I will never make it, I want out (v13).

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

Hebrews 4:14-16 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- **Philippians 4** teaches us how to address anxiousness/disappointments.

Philippians 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 (emotions) and minds (thoughts) through Christ Jesus.***

Doesn't God already know what I need? Sharing our anxiousness is *not* for God's benefit but ours. This verse does not promise deliverance from circumstances. The promise is that God's peace would be given.

1 Peter 4:12-13 *Beloved, **do not think it strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.*

2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 16-18 *We are **hard-pressed on every side**, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹⁶ **Therefore we do not lose heart.** Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. **For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.***