

## Liberty Commentary Overcoming Disappointments

As we approach the end of the year with thanksgiving and Christmas upon us, what should be a most joyous and happy occasion is actually one of the most stressful and disappointing times of the year for many. As the year began we may have had expectations that went unmet and have come to the end of the year with great disappointments. Disappointments come in all different ways. We have all been disappointed at times in our life. It may be disappointment with our jobs, our boss, our spouse, our children, our church family, or our own lives with our failure to reach our intended goals. One of the greatest impediments to the Christian reaching their potential for Christ is being overcome with disappointment. When we have been disappointed it zaps our spiritual and physical strength and we focus on the circumstances instead of the One who is in control of the circumstances. I think perhaps the greatest example of disappointment can be found amongst the disciples of Christ.

As Christ approaches the time when He would be crucified He began to prepare the disciples for His crucifixion and eventual accession back to Heaven. The reality was that the one whom these disciples had followed for 3 ½ years was leaving them. In fact He is going to die a horrible death. In Mark 10:28 Peter responds to Christ, “Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all and have followed thee.” The disciples had forsaken family and friends and now Christ is telling them of all the persecution and eventual death that will follow. The disciples are confused and disillusioned. They had forsaken all and now their entire commitment and sacrifices for the past 3 ½ years seem to be in vain, but Christ says ultimately take heart because through the empowering of the Holy Spirit and the promise of eternal life I will turn your disappointment into triumph.

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Jesus has a final 40 day ministry to His disciples giving them final instructions. The disciples are still in a state of shock because Jesus is telling them that he is ascending back to Heaven to be with the Father. In Acts chapter one Jesus gives final instructions to His disciples. Jesus tells them to wait in Jerusalem for the arrival of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus gave these last and final instructions Jesus ascends to heaven and leaves the disciples, but this time things are different. They do not wallow in self pity and disappointment seeing the one whom they had followed for 3 1/2 years was gone, but rather they have a new outlook and perspective. They are about to turn their disappointment into triumph. In Acts 1:12-14, in obedience to Jesus they gather in the upper room and wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit that would come.

The first step that we each must take when faced with disappointment is to be obedient to the Saviour. Don't live by your feelings, but live by the facts that God has given us in His word. Jesus said go and wait for the Holy Spirit and that is what they did. They overcame their disappointments by first being obedient to the Savior irrespective of their disappointments and feelings. Then they prayed together and professed their faith to others. When confronted with disappointments be obedient to Gods Word. Pray, and then pour your life into others by sharing your faith with them.

Peter who had been disappointed and disillusioned just 50 days earlier when he cursed and denied he knew Christ has now allowed Christ to turn his disappointment and failures into triumph. Peter is no longer filled with disappointment, but he is filled with boldness.

In Acts 2:37-41 Peter preached a Gospel message that gave people hope and something to live for. Peter preached that all are sinners, you cannot save yourselves from your sins, Jesus came to forgive you of your sins, and you must repent of your sins and receive

Christ as savior to receive eternal life. Three thousand received that message of hope and made Christ the Lord of their lives resulting in the establishment of the church age dispensation and multitudes coming to faith in Christ in the past 2,000 years since Peter's sermon at Pentecost.

If you are living today with burdens or disappointments you are not alone. But you must not continue in that state. Jesus came to give you something worth living for and to ultimately turn your disappointments into triumph, but you must be willing to follow Jesus and be obedient to Him.

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