

## Dealing with Disappointments

11.25.07

### Intro

1. Bill Burnham's death (chairman of deacons, LT liaison, ABF teacher, etc)...Lawrence Martin's death. Every death is significant, but there are many similarities – men of faith, believed in the supernatural & power of prayer, served on the Finance Com, died of mysterious illnesses...we prayed in faith, they stood in faith yet both died
2. One of the major goals this year was to stretch into the supernatural aspects of God's Kingdom...the KOG & healing..."on earth as it is in Heaven." Explain why this is important – healings validate the gospel message.
3. What are we to do? I think there are two choices.
  - a. God's sovereign and whatever happens is always His best/will. My prayers may or may not make a difference, but God's will is always done.
  - b. God is sovereign, but believers have a part to play in establishing God's will on earth. When I'm following God's will for my life I am bringing His Kingdom influence wherever I go. When I'm not following His will I am not establishing His Kingdom. I have a part to play in God's will being accomplished on earth. I'm choosing this option.
    - i. If we didn't have James 5; John 14.12; Matt.10; the testimony of the early church & present modern miracles, I'd say let's not contend to hard for the supernatural for God's going to do what God is going to do. The problem is that we have all those Scriptures and the testimony of the past & present that indicate prayer does change things.
4. The reason why more people don't pray for the sick. The emotional price tag is too high.
  - a. Luke 9.23 – if anyone would come after me, he must deny himself (put up with the pain of unanswered prayers, mystery & disappointment) and take up his cross daily & follow me.

- b. We need to have John Wimber's attitude - p.52 in Healing School workbook.

Where do we go from here?

1. We must encourage ourselves by focusing on God's goodness - salvation, HS, KOG, abundant life, more than conquerors
2. We must give up our demand to understand -
  - a. we must walk as a child;
  - b. as long as I demand understanding I can't receive the peace that passes understanding
  - c. We know in part - 1 Cor.13
3. We must take God off trail. Don't blame him for everything. We live in a broken world that will not be completely restored until the return of Christ
  - a. We are in a real war with a real enemy and there are casualties in that war. Was Bill a casualty in that war? I don't know...it might have been God's will that he died when he did, but it might not have been.
  - b. WE have to live in the tension & mystery of God's sovereignty, man's responsibility & the enemy's assaults.
4. We need a season of grieving & mourning, but we must no allow it to move into morbidity. We must turn it into blessing. Too much grieving leads to unbelief.
  - a. For those who have experienced the loss - find your voice in the Psalms
  - b. For those who prayed - God saw the love you showed (1 Cor.13; Matt.25) & that counts!
5. Ask God to give us justice. The seed has died & now we're looking for a seven fold return.
  - a. Prov.6.30f - when a thief is caught he must repay 7xs what he stole.
6. Our standard for truth is the Word of God not our personal disappointments. We can't allow our unanswered prayers to determine our level of faith in God & His word!
  - a. If we don't take up our cross on this issue, who will?

Karen Hubbard testimony - God healing her from cancer, daughter from Type 1 Diabetes & father from a stroke.