

am I to respond?" God can guide us to a wise and righteous reaction because He has all the facts.

Third, follow His direction, even if it isn't what you want to do. Oftentimes the Lord's way contradicts our own desires and the advice of friends. However, His plan is the one that will bring about growth and result in our greatest good.

And finally, keep your focus on God and His higher purpose in your life. People are prone to dwell on their hurts and the harm that comes to them, which is what makes disappointment so destructive.

There is only one healthy method for dealing with letdown—pursue the Lord's way and His will. Though human plans can be derailed, nothing alters God's purpose. No matter how deep your hurt goes, He will shepherd you through setbacks and sorrows while growing your faith.



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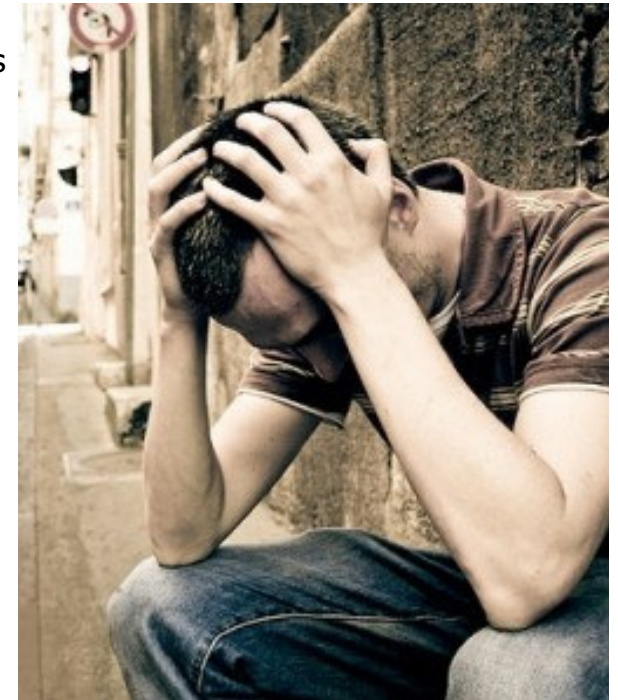
Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Dealing with Disappointment

After preaching a sermon on disappointment, several men and women approached me with the same reaction: "I desperately needed to hear those words." Countless people feel defeated and let down by disappointing situations. But our response can make all the difference. Frustrations can be either an opportunity for spiritual growth or a destructive blow.

A right response to disappointment begins with resisting the natural tendency toward bitterness. If someone else was involved in the situation, don't be quick to judge his or her conduct. We can't fully understand what is going on in others' lives or what motivates them to act as they do. Our second step should be to ask the Lord, "How





Trusting God

God's Control in His World (Nature)

There are three possible responses to God's control of His world:

1. _____,



(Matthew 5:45) *"that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."*

(Job 37:13) *"He brings the clouds to punish men, or to water his earth and show his love."* [paraphrase]

(Jeremiah 14:22) *"Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O LORD our God? Therefore we will wait for You, Since You have made all these."*

(Amos 4:7-8) *"I also withheld rain from you, When there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, And where it did not rain the part withered. {8} So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, But they were not satisfied; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD."*

(Numbers 14:27-29) *"How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. {28} "Say to them, 'As I*



live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: {29} The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.'

(Philippians 2:14) *"Do all things without complaining and disputing,"*

(1 Thessalonians 5:18) *"in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*



2. _____, Job 1:12, 2:6-7, 40:4-5, 42:2-6

(Isaiah 45:7) *"I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things."*

(Romans 8:22) *"For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now."*

(1 Peter 1:6-7) *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, {7} that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,"*

(Exodus 4:11) *"So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?"*

(John 9:1-3) *"Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. {2} And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" {3} Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."*

(Genesis 29:31) *"When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren."*

(Judges 13:3) *"And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son."*



3. _____,



(Habakkuk 3:2) *"O LORD, I have heard your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy."*

(Habakkuk 3:16-19) *"When I heard, my body trembled; My lips quivered at the voice; Rottness entered my bones; And I trembled in myself, That I might rest in the day of trouble. ...*

{17} Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the

stalls; {18} Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. {19} The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments."

