

## **Disappointment with God**

### **Topic today is “When God Disappoints You”**

To begin, I want to read an interesting story from James Dobson’s book “When God doesn’t make sense” – what an interesting title .... Is anyone else out there – maybe you can relate.

Call now if you have a question – it can be about our topic or any issue related to the bible, Christianity or your spiritual journey....

Questions from David

#### **1. How common is it for people to be disappointed with God?**

I think it is much more common than we realize. It is one of those areas of struggle that many keep inside and don’t feel it is Ok to talk about. ....

We all go through times in our life when we are disappointed with God or feel let down by God or things don’t happen the way we want them to or situations occur that cause us to feel that God was taking a nap.

Personal: For me, I have had this occur many times in my walk with the Lord .... Broken engagement ... experience in buying land as a church .... Many times not seeing justice come as quickly as I would like or someone changed as quickly as I would like or times when I don’t feel God shows Himself as strongly as I would like ....

I have had to come to the point where I stand on what I know about God from His word and not let the things I don’t know trip me up.

#### **2. What are some of the main reasons you see people being disappointed with God?**

Tragic situations: death of a loved one; abuse;  
Unanswered prayer  
Emotional turmoil

Relational hurt  
Natural disasters  
God just not doing what we want Him to do.

**3. Does God ever make a mistake? It almost seems like He did when it says in Genesis that He was sorry that He made man and brought the flood to destroy almost everyone.**

This is a great question, because it is so foundational to how we deal with things that happen that we struggle with: The bible says that all that God does and doesn't do is right and holy and good. This doesn't mean it will always seem that way to us, but God cannot sin or do anything wrong. He is perfect in all His ways.

David, one crucial issue here is that we must understand that we are finite and God is infinite. We are limited in our understanding while God is perfect and has the big picture

Ex. Parade

Isa. 55 his ways are higher than our ways ...

1 Cor. 13 now we see in a mirror dimly

Dt. 29:29 the secrets things belong to the Lord, the things revealed belong to man

Ps 145:17-18

17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways  
and loving toward all he has made.

18 The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

Ps 89:14

14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;  
love and faithfulness go before you.

Ps 97:2

2 Clouds and thick darkness surround him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Zeph 3:5

5 The LORD within her is righteous;  
he does no wrong.  
Morning by morning he dispenses his justice,  
and every new day he does not fail,  
yet the unrighteous know no shame.

Rev 19:2

2 for true and just are his judgments.

**4. Is it really OK for someone to tell God they are mad with Him? Won't He possibly strike them dead for doing something like this?**

It is OK ... we see it in the Psalms a lot .... God is understanding....  
He knows our hearts and knows it is there so if we don't express it we  
are only hiding it from ourselves, because God sees it all anyway.

Ps 62:8

8 Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your hearts to him,  
for God is our refuge.

Larry Crabb: OK to be totally honest with God as long as it doesn't  
lead to a demanding spirit

Pers. Me on the lake in MN

**5. What suggestions would you offer someone who is disappointed with God?**

- a. Be honest about it – with God and with someone else. Pour out your heart to Him
- b. Always go back to God's Word regarding who He is and what He does. Focus more on what is clear than on what is not clear.

- c. Be OK with your human limitations and understanding.
- d. Get counsel and prayer from godly people. Gal. 6
- e. Remember it is a spiritual battle.
- f. Be willing to submit and trust God even though you don't see the answer yet. Hebr. 11:1,6

Part of faith is saying "God you are God; I am not; I don't fully understand what is going on, but I choose to stand on what I know to be true from Your Word and I will hold fast to You amidst this hard time."

Another thing: It is often in the toughest times and sometimes most painful times that God does the most in our lives...

- g. Wait on the Lord to fulfill His Word. Isa. 40

**Other thoughts on this topic:**

- Mother Theresa
- Joseph: many bad things happened that he was probably disappointed in and yet through it all the bible says "The Lord was with him..."
- Job
- Good books like Dobson and yancey

**Next week:**

- When your past still affects you
- During Octoberfest, be responsible .... Beware of the dangers of alcohol
- If you are not involved in a bible believing church, I invite you to First Free.....
- Give the good news ....Jesus first for freedom in life...

