

Missionary Evangelist Glenn Stockton

The Pastor's Friend

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Dear Pastor & Friends:

Psalm 54:4 "Behold, God is mine helper:" As you all know we in Florida have been through many hard days with four hurricanes. The most, hurricanes in the shortest period time in the history of Florida. It hasn't just been in one area but the whole State was effected in one way or another.

We heard from three preachers about how they had great loses in their churches. My home church, Calvary, lost one educational building. The roof came off and everything was soaked. Every inside wall had to come down, all the tile taken up, air conditioning ducts replaced, office equipment replaced, all the ceilings and electrical replaced. Everything was destroyed but the outside walls. In Pastor Bales situation, churches brought so much that they were able to help the people of Port Charlotte. A good outreach program for Brother Bales church. Some blame God for this and want us to think that God doesn't care or that God has forsaken us. Satan tries to cast doubts on the faithfulness of God. It has wisely been said, "Never doubt in the dark what God has told you in the light." God cares for His own dear people.

Our month has been slow, because of the hurricanes two Sunday services were canceled. Everyone has been busy cleaning up the mess. We did have a Mission Conference the 20th through the 24th. We were with Pastor Joel Henshaw at the Bible Baptist Church in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

We will be celebrating our **50th Wedding Anniversary** the 20th of November. Our children and their families took us out for dinner last Friday evening and presented us with a trip to Hawaii. What a wonderful surprise!

Thank you for your prayers and support. If we can be of help please call on us. May the Lord continue to bless you as you labor for Him.

In Jesus Name,

Glenn Stockton

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ENCOURAGEMENT

LIVING THROUGH DISAPPOINTMENTS

Each of us must learn how to handle the disappointments of life. All of us know what it means to have our dreams shattered and our plans changed. Sometimes disappointment so crushes a person that he is emotionally handicapped for life. And yet there are people who rise above the broken dreams and live in victory.

If ever a man experienced disappointments and personal tragedy, it was Jeremiah. He was called to serve God at a difficult time in history. And he was given a difficult message to proclaim, for God told him to warn the nation that judgment was coming and they had better repent. Jeremiah served the Lord faithfully for over forty years. He never compromised his message or his loyalty. His family turned against him, and ultimately the entire nation turned against him.

If ever a man was broken hearted, it was Jeremiah. His book of prophecies bears witness to his burden, and the Book of Lamentations, which he also wrote, has tear stains on almost every verse. Imagine serving God faithfully for a life time and, in the end, seeing everything fall apart! Jeremiah could have died a bitter and broken man, but he did not. In the strength of the Lord he was able to face his disappointments and accept them.

The first truth he teaches us is this: **expect disappointments.** Some people have the idea that faithful Christians escape disappointments, but this is not true. God does not guarantee that we will never have a broken heart. God does not promise to take away our tears this side of heaven. Don't you think that godly Abraham was disappointed in the behavior of his nephew Lot? Wasn't Joseph burdened at the selfish treatment he received from his brothers? The sins of the people of Israel broke the heart of Moses time after time, so much so that he even wanted to die! King David had great plans for his family, yet some of his sons were so sinful they almost wrecked the nation.

The prophet Jeremiah teaches us a second truth: **our disappointments are in the hands of God.** I am sure there were times when the prophet thought he had been forsaken by God. Why wasn't God answering his prayers? Why wasn't the Word he was preaching bearing fruit and changing the nation? God knew what was happening and was ruling and overruling in Jeremiah's life. God permitted His servant to suffer. God protected him when the king wanted to kill him, and God provided for him so he did not go hungry. God was there whether or not Jeremiah saw Him or felt His presence.

Listen, God is working all things together for good, and part of that good is that we might be conformed to the image of His Son---made more like the Lord Jesus Christ. The four men in the Old Testament who best picture Jesus Christ are men who suffered---Joseph, Moses, David, and Jeremiah. So, if you and I suffer, it is because God wants to polish us

and make us like His own Son. Remember, God builds character in the disappointments of life.

Be Encouraged,

Glenn Stockton
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