

## Handling Disappointments – 2 Samuel 7

King David had seen the wonderful blessing of God upon his life, and in the twilight of his reign he wanted to do something special for God.

He expressed his vision to Nathan the prophet, to build a temple of immense beauty and incredible detail. He wanted it to be a permanent symbol of his love for God and worship of God.

However, God said no to David's holy desire. To many of us that would be something of a surprise. Nonetheless it does raise the question of how we should handle disappointments in the Christian life. How do we cope when God says no, when God does not answer prayer in the way we had hoped.

We can learn a lot from David's reaction :

### **David submitted himself to the will of God.**

This was reflected in the fact that David didn't get angry with God. He simply accepted His judgment.

We see the results of not accepting God's will on a matter in the life of Cain in Genesis 4v3-7. Cain refused to acknowledge the fact that his worship was not acceptable to God.

**David didn't allow himself to become discouraged.** Often I have seen Christians who have dreamed up various ways in which they assume they can serve God, only to find that none of it comes to fruition. Also you find at times that someone starts a project for the Lord only to find that they don't have the assurance of God's OK for the task, and as a result don't have the stick-ability to complete the task.

### **David didn't fall into the trap of self-pity.**

Remember Elijah after the incredible victory on Mount Carmel. Jezebel sends him a threat and Elijah ran for his life. The issue here is one of focus. Elijah on Mount Carmel was completely focused on God. However, he forgot to renew that focus after receiving Jezebel's message, thus his life at that time was characterised by fear not faith.

### **David didn't try to change the mind of**

**God.** Hezekiah received word that he was to put his life in order as he was going to die. He understandably became upset, and asked God to change His mind. He did that, but they became the most miserable and unfruitful years of his life.

**David listened to the Word of God.** As David listened to the prophet Nathan, God took time to comfort His faithful servant. He recounted how He had been with Israel, how He had delivered them from Egypt, how He had taken David from being a shepherd to being King of Israel.

**Lastly David gave himself to the worship of God.** This is the mark of genuine submission to the will of God. Again and again when issues have troubled the children of God, worship helps to give them a correct perspective on their problems. In Psalm 73 Asaph expressed his dismay to God at the seemingly uncontrolled spread and influence of evil. Then he says in verses 16-17 : *"When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me – until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end."*

Carl Carmody – Editor of Challenge

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## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the Trezona family as they leave for the United States on 4th June. Pray for their extended family here in Western Australia as they say goodbye. Continue to pray for the provision of a suitable home to purchase.
- Pray for the ongoing supply of testimonies and articles for the various editions of Challenge we produce around the world.
- Pray for the Outback Patrol as it goes out each month to many remote towns all over the nation, that both students and teachers will be drawn to Jesus Christ.
- Please continue to pray for finances for the various projects we are involved in around the world.

## PRAISE POINTS

- We praise the Lord for the USA visa approval for the Trezona family. The Lord has certainly prepared the way with a home group at Urbancrest Baptist Church ready to assist in setting them up when they arrive.
- We thank God for His protection and care of the Challenge building and facilities.
- We are thankful to the Lord for His help in enabling us to meet our monthly expenses.
- We are always grateful to the Lord for new orders for Challenge. Pray for the wise and prayerful distribution of these papers.

From Tebogo, whose story appeared in the May edition

*I think its a great article - its amazing that while I was going through all that, God was busy writing this article. My only prayer is that it should reach the lost and that they would find Christ through it. Thank you Challenge News - You are doing an amazing work. – TEBOGO*



**re story: Alfred saw the faith of his brother**  
*Blessed greetings and thanks very much for sharing about the great work that prison officers do. I am inspired as a young officer and it's my prayer that we shall continue to emulate such gracious senior officers. Thank you and stay blessed! – MISHECK MBALE*

**re. story: Owen Pomana**  
*Your article s very well written, just the right level of detail into the past, the right amount written about his conversion and his new life. – EDDY TAN*

**re. Military edition in southern Africa**  
*We distributed 22,000 papers in South Africa and 3,500 in Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho – PETER LOUWRENS*

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