

## **DISILLUSIONMENT FOR THE BELIEVER**

Psalm 71:5-6 ... "For you are my hope, O Lord God; you are my trust from my youth. By you I have been upheld from birth; you are he who took me out of my mother's womb. My praise shall be continually of you."

Disillusionment is the act of feeling hopeless when something does not happen exactly as you expect. It differs from disappointment in that mere disappointment is a feeling you will get over easily. But disillusionment is harder to shake off, because you were so sure that things were going to go your way.

Do you sometimes feel hopeless when God does not bless you exactly as you desired? When you are so sure that God will heal you, or bail you out of financial difficulty, or convince a young man to marry you? Believers commonly think they have God figured out; that they are certain they know what God's will is for them and that when they pray, God will answer just as they expect him to. Then, when God fails to satisfy their expectations, they not only feel disappointed, but they feel disillusioned; they lose hope; they may even turn their backs on God because he failed them in their hour of need.

One problem in today's modern view of Christianity, is that if you are very spiritual, God will do exactly what you tell him to do. This is a very real problem because people who believe in this manner, try to transform God into their servant, rather than their Lord and Master. They assure others who are sick, that "I declare you healed in the name of Jesus," or "God will not let you suffer," or "Your prosperity is ready, just claim it." This way of thinking makes your plan more important than God's plan. And, people who adhere to this kind of thinking eventually end up feeling hopeless when it is discovered that God's plan for them was different than their own plan.

It is important to ground your hope and your expectations in God's Word. Study how God worked in the lives of the people documented in the Bible. There you will find that God's plan for your life may be very different than your dreams. You have a choice. You can follow God's plan for your life and enjoy success and satisfaction, or you can chase your own dreams and see where that takes you.

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