

Those who “seek first the Kingdom of God”
will experience disappointments!

To walk bravely with God in His destiny for your life requires that you know ‘experientially’ – not just mentally - that He is *always* good to you and is *always* thinking good towards you.

Becoming a living, lighted billboard that displays His nature “on earth as it is in heaven” requires much more than lip service that God is good (sometimes, to some people). We are talking about a trust that sustains you in the lion’s den, through the Red Sea, and to a funeral to raise a dead person!

No, I don’t have that yet, but I am going after it! A step we were taught last month was that **unresolved disappointments undermine the belief that God is personally good**. Example: You believe that God will bless your marriage, kids, church or ministry, and it all goes sideways. You get deeply hurt and disappointed that God didn’t step in to prevent it. Now what?

In many Christian circles you are encouraged to think ‘maturely’ (rationally), ‘stuff’ the disappointment and carry on. We are given pat answers, which are, in reality, false doctrines such as, “God is teaching you character” (see footnote#1), “God is in control” (see footnote#2), “God knows best”, and others that slander His character. Someone has said, “If you treated your children the same way we believe God treats His, you’d be thrown in prison!” Is it any wonder why evangelism has been difficult when Christians credit God with being cruel, unreliable, inconsistent and selective?

Footnotes:

1. Think for a moment how ridiculous it sounds to imagine a loving parent intentionally forcing her child into a devastating circumstance “just because it’s good for them”!

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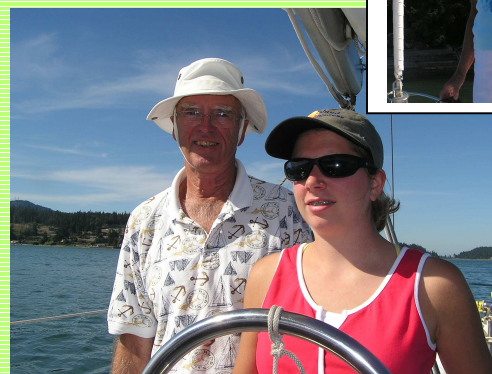
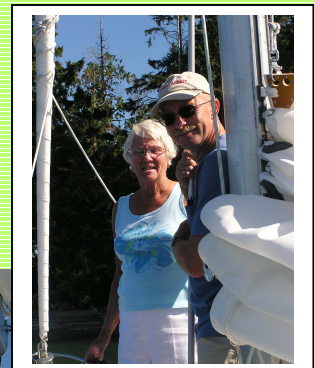
News:

★ Still more of the same....lots of guests, lots of blessing, lots of exciting revelations from God, lots of questions and waiting. We serve a great God, Who is full of surprises and mystery and is good **all the time** and always in a good mood! :)

★ The house is still on the market and there has been quite a lot of activity lately. So, we’re on the lookout for the next place the Lord would have us live. We’d appreciate your prayers that we would find the right house at a good price - one that would suit our needs for a peaceful place to host ministry guests.

★ Josh and his team will be passing through here mid-September on their way up to Alaska for their outreach. How fun for us to be able to host them and assist their packing up a van to drive the Alaska Highway! Would you please pray for a safe journey, no vehicle breakdowns, prepared hearts to receive the team and success in all the ways God chooses to move through them?

★ Neil’s parents, Harry & Bett, came to visit from Sidney on their sailboat and took us out for a sail. It was a perfect day and again reminded us how ‘therapeutic’ it is being out on the water.



Footnotes (cont.)

2. God is, by choice, *sovereign*, but you and I are *in control* because God decided to give us free will. He will not violate man's free will – ours or anybody else's.

3. For those of you who struggle with seemingly biblical contradictions remember, **when in doubt the life of Jesus trumps all!** “When you have seen Me you have seen the Father” [the Father's heart].

4. The following clever insights are from “*Healing, Our Neglected Birthright*” by Bill Johnson.

Steps to resolve disappointment:

1. Be honest: *I am disappointed/angry, feel used, misunderstood, betrayed, taken advantage of...etc.*

2. Verbalize your pain: *God I trusted you and it feels like You abandoned me!* It may help to read through the book of Psalms until you ‘find your voice’. Expressing your heart out loud through God's Word is powerfully healing. King David whined and accused God many times, being totally honest, expressing his feelings of anger, fear, sense of injustice, etc.

3. If need be, confess and ask God to forgive you for judging Him, (standing as the judge over God with thoughts like, “*You should have done this or that...*”), which puts you in a position where you cannot receive from Him.

4. Give up the right to have an explanation from God.

5. Forgive humans involved by first taking an account of what they owe you (Matt. 18:21-35) (See our April 2007 newsletter on our blog: www.maritimeministries.blogspot.com)

6. Give disappointment to God and declare you won't ever again put it on the scales when deciding if you can trust God with the your next step of faith.

Unresolved disappointments subconsciously pile up on the scales in favor of not trusting God. Sure, we all say, “God is good” – we are expected to and even desire to. But deep inside the verdict is, ‘*God is not personally good to me, therefore I'll play it safe. I need to protect myself from future hurt and disappointment.*’ In our desire to avoid future disappointments, we develop and propagate doctrine and self-protective lifestyles that remove the need to trust God.

Remember, we are capable of carrying two conflicting beliefs at the same time: James 1 speaks of double-mindedness – ‘Cognitive vs. Experiential’ or more simply, ‘Mind vs. Heart’

What freedom there is in releasing disappointments to God! It frees me from the heavy weight of self-protection and allows me – once again – to trust the loving Father, who has *only intentions of love and goodness toward me!* Are you ready to exchange your disappointments for freedom to trust again? **My** goal is to trust Him again, the same way I did the first week I met Him in May 1980!!

*Blessings to you from
Capt. Neil and Crew~*

***Tax-deductible donations may be made to:***

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or online at www.noblemaritime.com

