

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Disappointment

"Sometimes when you get disappointment it makes you stronger." – David Rudisha

"The principles of living greatly include the capacity to face trouble with courage, disappointment with cheerfulness, and trial with humility." – Thomas S. Monson

"When we focus on our gratitude, the tide of disappointment goes out and the tide of love rushes in." – Kristin Armstrong

"Anytime you suffer a setback or disappointment, put your head down and plow ahead." – Les Brown

"The joy of losing consists in this: Where there are no expectations, there is no disappointment." – Charles Krauthammer

Disappointment comes to all of us at one time or another. It is usually referred to as the "non-fulfillment of certain expectations." How we deal with them says a lot about the kind of people that we are.

Isn't it ironic that at times children feel disappointed in their parents and parents disappointed in their children? Such reminds one of the old quote by Mark Twain, "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

Many a parent has had the heartache and disappointment with their children seeing them leave the church. They scratch their heads and wonder where they went wrong? Being a free moral agent, sometimes children make poor choices. We can only hope that what the Proverb writer wrote comes to pass: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

Disappointment certainly is not isolated to family. We may feel it more acutely when it is close to home, but we experience it quite often with our church family. For instance, we become frustrated and disappointed when we see long time church members exhibiting a lack of spiritual growth. Such reminds us of the Hebrew writer, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food" (Heb. 5:12). It is certainly not because we do not care that we find disappointment, but because we do!

Prayer and patience are a good combination when we are faced with disappointment. But in honesty, we are not very good with patience in such matters. Like the old adage: "Lord give me patience, and give it to me right now!"