

CCC KEEP ON BELIEVING Part 9

How to Rebound From Disappointment

Achieving Through Believing

Welcome:

The Only thing matters to God:

My Bible:

Message: I think the word I want to start off with this morning to you is "Keep on believing!" I think the basic message of our church is "Don't give up! Keep on believing!" I believe this is also for us individually..."Don't give up! Keep on believing!" Don't give up on the Lord in areas of your life, but keep on believing! Galatians 6:9 *"Let us not become weary in doing good. For at the proper time [underline that] we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* "Don't give up!" "Keep on believing! But how do you do that? How do you keep on

believing when circumstances discourage you? How do you keep on believing in spite of difficult circumstances? And the answer is... you need to have a faith that is persistent. You need to have a persistent faith. There are two keys to having a persistent faith, there are two keys to having the kind of faith that keeps on believing no matter what is going on in your life, there are two keys to having a persistent faith that says, "don't give up" and these two keys are:

- 1. Understand how God works in your life.**
- 2. Learn to wait on God.**

Last week we talked about "Understanding how God works in your life" Last week we said that if you don't understand how God works in your life, you're going to get discouraged, you're going to give up. Why because you don't understand how God works in your life. The Bible

says very clearly that there is a specific pattern or process that God performs in our lives. I call this process, “The Six Phases of Faith.” See friends if you have put your trust in Him, you need to begin developing the faith that says, God knows what He's doing even when it looks like He doesn't know what He's doing in your life. And if you don't understand these phases of faith that He uses to develop this faith in you, you're going to get discouraged and you're going to give up. Last week talked the six phases and they are and I am going to do a brief review: The phases work like this:

1. God gives you a dream.

That's the starting point. God gives you a dream, He give you an idea, a goal, a challenge, a promise, a desire, an ambition. When God wants to do anything, He starts with a dream with you. The second phase is:

2. A decision.

You make a decision. You decide am I going to follow the dream or am I not? See a dream is worthless unless you choose to go for it. You decide to invest your time, your money, your reputation, and your energy in to it.

The third phase is:

3. Delay

This is where some of us get bogged down. We don't like Delay. But there is always a delay when God works in your life. He gives you a dream but He does not fulfill the dream immediately. But remember a delay is not a denial. A delay is a delay. Part of the maturity process is learning the difference between "No" and "Not yet".

The fourth phase is:

4. Difficulties

Difficulties a part of God's plan.

5. Dead End

The situation deteriorates until it becomes impossible to you. One of the examples we looked at last week was Jesus brought in a vision a dream of a kingdom in Heaven with God to the world. The disciples were excited about all of this! But one day Jesus was nailed to a cross and crucified. The disciples are bewildered and disillusioned. "What happened?" There was a Death of a vision. For three days they wander around in a dazed attitude. It's over. We're finished.

At this stage in your life you begin to question. What's going on, God? Did I misinterpret Your plan? Did I miss Your vision? Did I miss Your dream? Did you bring me this far just to drop me? God often asks us to believe in impossible situations. Why? Because that's where faith comes through. God was preparing you for Phase 6.

6. Deliverance

God does a miracle. God provides the solution. He delivers. He makes good on His promise to you. He supernaturally fulfills the dream, not by human effort but supernaturally. If God can raise the dead, He can do anything. Our impossibilities are simply God's opportunities. God loves to turn crucifixions into resurrections in your life. He loves to turn dead ends into deliverance for those who have put their faith and trust into Him. He loves to turn night into day. He specializes in resurrections. Why? Then He gets the credit. So, in order to handle the discouraging times of life, you need to understand how He works. Then you need to learn to wait.

What do you do while you're going through the six phases of faith which are inevitable for a Christian's life? What do you do while you're going through the six phases

of faith. I could have used anybody in the Bible to illustrate this. It's taught all through the Bible, what do you do?

How do you wait on God? There are Four things I want to look at this morning from God's word, the Bible that shows us what do. I am going to use the word wait today.

But let me say this in starting, "Waiting is not passive... it's not just sitting there, twiddling your thumbs. What do you do while you're going through the six phases of faith? You **"LEARN HOW TO WAIT ON GOD."**

W - Withstand. The word withstand is an old English word. It means, according to Webster, to endure successfully. In the Greek the word withstand means to stand your guard, hold your ground. It's a war term that means you hang in there and you keep on hanging on. You hold your ground. Ephesians 6 says, "*Put on the full armor of God so that you can withstand* [circle "withstand"]

against the devil's schemes. Stand firm and take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish the flaming darts of the evil one." He's using some war terms here.

Waiting is a spiritual battle. Waiting on God is a spiritual battle. The devil wants to defeat you, and he wants to discourage you. God says, "put on". He says "get dressed for battle." "*Put on the armor of God so you can withstand against the devil's schemes.*" Satan has a strategy for your life. It's to discourage you. It's his scheme. If you take the shield of faith you can extinguish the flaming darts. The Romans used to have arrows that they would put tar or pitch on the end of them and light them and they would shoot flaming arrows. The Bible says that Satan has darts he shoots at the Christian during these waiting periods, during the periods of delay and difficulties and dead ends. There are three of them. There's dart of doubt, the dart of

discouragement and the dart of detour (take things into your hand and work things out yourself quickly). That's what Abraham did. God wasn't moving fast enough for him so his wife said, "Here, take this women Hagar and have a baby through her." Was that God's plan for them? No! That wasn't God's plan. That was a detour. During the time of waiting, you're under intense pressure to do something, even if it is wrong. God wants to say, "Hang in there! Keep on believing!"

Withstand. That's the first thing you do while you're waiting. You withstand the discouragement the devil would put on you. The doubts, the discouragement and the detours he would try to do to get you off course.

A - Anticipate. Anticipate while you wait. David says in Psalm 27 in the Living Bible says, "I am expecting [circle that] *the Lord to rescue me again so that once again*

I will see His goodness to me. Psalms 130:5 He says I wait eagerly [circle that] *for the Lord's help.*" He's talking about expecting God to act. I can tell you what God is doing in your life right now without even knowing you very well or anything much about you. How do I do that because I know God is doing exactly what you expect Him to do and not anything more, not anything less then what you are expecting? The Bible teaches that God works according to your expectations. Jesus said, "*According to your faith it will be done unto you.*" Matthew 9:29 Not according to your talent, not according to your education, your welfare but your faith. You get to choose how much God blesses your life. You get to choose what God does in your family. You get to choose the amount of blessing. You get to choose what God wants to do through you. "*according to your faith.*"

My question for you is, “What are you expecting God to do in your life?” Anything? What are you expecting God to do in your life this next week? And He's going to do what you are expecting Him to.

You anticipate. He's talking about hope. The book of Hebrews says, *"Hope is the anchor of the soul."* Hebrews 6:19. It steadies us when we're tempted to give up and give in during a discouraging time. What is hope?

HOPE - Holding On Praying Expectantly. That's hope. Holding on and praying expectantly. Expecting God to work in your life. Anticipate. Maybe you've stopped expecting God to answer. That's why you're stuck in stage three at the delay, or stage four, the difficulties or stage five, the dead end. Frankly, you don't expect God to fulfill that dream that He gave you long ago. You've given up on it.

I - Intercede. That's another word for praying. Keep on praying. While you're withstanding, while you're anticipating, you intercede. You keep on praying.

Luke 18:1 Jesus told the parable that *"we should always pray and not give up."* In this verse there are two alternatives. You can either pray or you can give up. You will do one or the other in life. In any situation, you'll either pray or you'll give up. Those are the alternatives. The King James Version says, *"Men ought always to pray and not faint."* You're either fainting or praying. You're either praying or giving up.

Intercede while you're waiting on God. *"Morning by morning, I lay my request before you and wait in expectation."* Psalms 5:3 He doesn't say, “I pray and then forget about it. Or I pray but don't believe it's going to happen.” He says, “I pray and then I wait expecting an

answer.” And How often? Morning by morning.
Continually, faithfully, regular prayer. Our problem is we stop praying too soon. When the answer doesn't come immediately we just give up. I wonder how many of us are still praying expecting our Expansion Program to go well. I wonder how many are praying and believing by faith that God will bring us the \$850,000 we need, that God will be with the engineers, that we will keep unity in the church during this time. See it is easy to pray and believe for a month. But the long haul is the test of faith.
How often do you pray? The Bible says, *"Pray without ceasing."* You never stop. I'm convinced that, for instance the expansion program, it's not so much that we're waiting on God, but God is waiting on us. God wants you to believe and act on this... God is not interested in building buildings as much as He is in building disciples faith. This

is a test of faith for you. *"According to your faith it will be done unto you."* *"We wait in hope"* we intercede -- we keep on praying.

T - Trust. You trust while you're waiting. Psalms 37 says, *"Commit everything you do [not some things, but everything you do] to the Lord. Trust Him to help you do it and He will. Be still."* Underline "be still". That's the hardest thing in the world for people to do during the waiting period -- be still and trust.

Trust. Proverbs 3:5 say *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don't lean on your own understanding."* He's saying that you don't have to figure it all out before God does the miracle. You just trust.

You trust. Waiting is an act of faith. Ecclesiastes says, *"Everything that happens in this world, happens at the times God chooses."* *"He has set the right time for*

everything." Everything that happens in the world, happens at the times God chooses. That's saying that God is never in a hurry. He cannot be pressured, He cannot be manipulated, He cannot be pushed to fit your timetable. God is never in a hurry.

One time Mary and Martha came running out to Jesus and said, "Your friend Lazarus is sick." It was only about a half-day's journey away but it took Jesus three days to get there. By that time, Lazarus had died. It had gone from difficulty to dead end. It had gone from a tough situation (Jesus was going to heal a sick man) to an impossible situation (Jesus was going to have to raise the dead). No problem! God is never in a hurry. He just made it a bigger miracle. God is never in a hurry and God is never late. God's timing is perfect. It happens when God chooses it to happen. His Perfect timing.

Five years ago, I stood up and announced, "We need to expand the church. We made up an expansion team and God had put together a group that was just perfect for those initial moves and the dream was born.

We moved into Phase 2 -- the Decision. Are we going to go for it? If we go for it, it's going to cost us money, time and energy to be committed to this dream. There were architectural things to be done. There were engineering things, fees, times of consulting, permits and zonings, and all these things that were going to have to be done was going to cost us money, time and energy. We made the decision. Yes, we are going to go for it. We have spent a lot of money, a lot of time, a lot of effort and energy and we went from Phase 1, the Dream, to Phase 2, the Decision. We made the investment.

Then along came Phase 3, the Delay. How many of you remember all the delays we had? There was delay after delay... some people started thinking, "Does God want us to have this?" They didn't understand God's plan. All the people in the Bible had a delay.

Then came the Difficulties, Stage 4. In the last several weeks, we have gone forward and have many difficulties to overcome.

Stage 5 – Deadend. We hit that and stay still and never moved anywhere for about a year. Waiting on God

Frankly, I don't know if we're done with the dead end stage or not. It will depend on your faith here.

The next stage is A resurrection. Is that the way God's going to do it? I don't know. But I am saying that nothing happens until you get to the end of your limit and you say, "God, we've done everything we could." That's what God

wants you to do. You do everything you can and at that point you say, "I can't go any further and God takes over. When you've reached your limit. When you're at the end of your rope. Then comes Deliverance. We've prayed from the very start that God would give us the monies needed, the unity needed in a way that it would be a miracle, that we couldn't just explain it in human terms. Frankly, I don't want to be a part of a church that isn't a miracle. I want to be where God is and where God is, that's where miracles are happening.

Someone asked me once about, "What's going to happen?" One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Philippians 1:6. Paul's talking, *"Being confident of this that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ."* Being confident that He who began it will carry it on to completion. What

God starts, He finishes. God doesn't lead you out on a limb and then saw the limb off. What God starts, He finishes!

Around six years ago, two groups of people became Calvary Community Church of Riva, God began that work. And what God starts, He finishes. Keep on believing.

Praise Band come forward:

Prayer:

Let me ask you a question? Are you at the end of your rope? Are you boxed in? Are you backed into a corner financially, physically, mentally? Do you find yourself saying, "Hurry up, God!" If so, God has a word for you this morning. Keep on believing and get ready for a miracle. Remember that God's delays are not God's denials. "Not yet" does not mean "No." You may be stuck in the Delay period or the Difficulty period. Or you may be stuck at the Deadend. You're still trying to figure it out

on your own cleverness. Maybe you're trying to take a detour. Maybe you're just trying to do something different. God wants to say this to you this morning, "Yes, you're at the Deadend, but I want to do a Deliverance in your life."

I don't know why God has delayed some of my deepest requests. But I do know this: God is in control. I don't know why God hasn't answered some of your deepest prayers but I do know that God is in control.

I challenge you to pray this prayer in your heart, "Lord, help me to withstand discouragement. Help me to hold my ground against the devil and against his doubts, the darts of doubt and discouragement and depression and the temptation to detour. Lord, help me to keep on praying and believing and anticipating Your answer. Help me to trust that Your timing is perfect."

A special challenge to you this morning. I want to challenge you to renew your commitment this morning, to pray daily for the financing, the unity of the expansion program, to ask God to do a miracle and expect it to happen. I know some people say maybe God doesn't want us to do this. Where God guides He provides. Let's not be stuck in the delays, the difficulties, the deadends by our lack of unbelief. I'm convinced more than ever before that we're not waiting on God but God's waiting on us. This is a test of faith for us. God's waiting to see: Are we going to be believers or are we going to be complainers? Doubters? Some people say, "But what if we fail?" As your pastor I want to say, "Whether we fail or not, I intend to trust God." And I challenge you to join me and go along with me. You can never be a failure if what you're doing is ultimately for the glory of God. You can never be a failure if what you're

doing is ultimately done in sincere faith. Commit to praying everyday we need and believing God for a miracle in '07. Thank You, Father. Thank You for giving us these examples and truths in Your word so that we might understand how You work in our lives and then not be discouraged by it. Help us to keep on believing even when we come to the delays and difficulties and even to the dead end. Lord, we know that without faith it's impossible to please You. So we thank You in advance for what You'll do in our lives and in our church in 2007. Help us to withstand discouragement, doubts. Help us to anticipate Your answer, to never stop praying and to always trust that Your timing is perfect. Lord, we know that You're more interested in building our character than anything else. Make us ready for the blessing You want us to receive. In Jesus' name. Amen

KEEP ON BELIEVING
How to Rebound From Disappointment
Achieving Through Believing - Part 9

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up!" Galatians 6:9

TWO SECRETS OF PERSISTENT FAITH

I. UNDERSTAND HOW GOD WORKS IN YOUR LIFE:
(The Six Phases of Faith)

Examples:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Noah (Genesis 6-9) | Joseph (Genesis 37-45) |
| Abraham (Genesis 17-22) | Moses (Exodus 2-15) |
| Jesus (John 14-20) | David (1 Samuel 16-32) |

PHASE 1: _____

PHASE 2: _____

PHASE 3: _____

PHASE 4: _____

PHASE 5: _____

PHASE 6: _____

II. LEARN HOW TO WAIT ON GOD.

W _____

*"Put on the full armor of God so that you can withstand against the devil's schemes ... stand firm ... and take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish the flaming darts of the evil one."
Ephesians 6:11, 13, 16*

"3 Darts": _____

"Be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord" Psalms 27:14

A _____

"I am expecting the Lord to rescue me again, so that once again I will see His goodness to me..." Psalms 27:13 (LB)

"I wait eagerly for the Lord's help..." Psalms 130:5 (GN)

According to your faith it will be done unto you." Matthew 9:29 (LB)

"Hope is the anchor of the soul." Hebrews 6:19 (NKJ)

I _____

"Jesus told a parable to show that we should always pray and not give up." Luke 18:1

"Men ought always to pray and not faint." Luke 18:1 (KJ)

"Morning by morning I lay my requests before You and wait in expectation." Psalm 5:3

T _____

*"Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him to help you do it and He will. Be still before the Lord, wait patiently for Him to act."
Psalms. 37:5&7 (LB)*

*"Everything that happens in this world happens at the times God chooses. He has set the right time for everything."
Ecclesiastes 3:1&11*