



## All Kinds of Prayer – Part 5

# Prayers of Disappointment

Lamentations 3:1, 19-23

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<sup>1</sup> I am the man who has **seen affliction by the rod of the LORD's wrath.** - - - <sup>19</sup> I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. <sup>20</sup> I well remember them, and **my soul is downcast within me.** <sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> **Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.** <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; **great is your faithfulness.**

## Disappointed by Hardship

Romans 8:31-32, 35, 39

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? - - - <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? **Shall trouble or hardship or**

**persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?** - - - <sup>39</sup> ...neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **[nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*O God, I am so disappointed by the hardship and trouble I am facing...  
Help me remember that no amount of hardship can separate me from your love.*

## Disappointed by Weakness

Hebrews 4:15-16

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> **Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,** so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

*O God, I am so disappointed by my weakness and my sinful failures...  
Thank you for Jesus who understands my weaknesses and temptations...  
Pour out your mercy upon me, and by your grace help me in this time of need.*

## Disappointed by Questions

Psalms 131

<sup>1</sup> My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. <sup>2</sup> **But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content.** <sup>3</sup> Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore.

*O God, there are so many things I cannot understand. Sometimes I am so distraught over my questions because I think I need the answers to be content. Help me to put my trust in you. Wean me from my obsession with things that are beyond my reach and my reason. Make me content in you. Help me to find the calm and quiet I need in you, just as a child does in its mother's arms.*

## Disappointed by Expectations

### Matthew 11:2-6

<sup>2</sup> When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> **The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.** <sup>6</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

*O God, my life is not going as I expected. I am frustrated because my plans aren't going my way. I am disappointed because I expected to be more fulfilled by the things that HAVE gone my way. Help me to face the reality of my life, and to trust you when my expectations come to nothing.*

## Don't Confuse God with Life.

## Don't Forget Christ Understands-

Our Hardship, Our Weakness, Our Questions, Our Expectations.

### Strengthen My Hope

A Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Dear God,  
I am full of wishes, full of desires,  
full of expectations.  
Some of them may be realized,  
many may not,  
but in the midst of all my satisfactions  
and disappointments,  
I hope in you.  
I know that you will never leave me alone  
and will fulfill your divine promises.  
Even when it seems that things are not going my way,  
I know that they are going your way  
and that, in the end, your way is the  
best way for me.  
O Lord, strengthen my hope,  
especially when my many wishes are not fulfilled.  
Let me never forget that your name is Love.  
Amen.