

David pt13 – What To Do When The Answer Does Not Come

Pastor John Carmichael

[2Sa 12:15-25 NASB95] 15 So Nathan went to his house. Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was [very] sick. 16 David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground. 17 The elders of his household stood beside him in order to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them. 18 Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was [still] alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do [himself] harm!" 19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead." 20 So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed [himself,] and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate. 21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." 22 He said, "While the child was [still] alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.' 23 "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." 24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved him 25 and sent [word] through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the LORD'S sake.

- You prayed, and nothing happened. You believed, and they still died. You fasted, and God did not respond.
- In 2 Samuel 12, God gives us a story of a “faith failure” and “unanswered prayer.”
- David had sinned. As a result of his sin, a baby was conceived and then struck ill. He prayed for seven days, and the baby died. Yet, David gave us a perspective and a path on what to do in this type of situation. In fact, because of his actions, he received the greatest of all miracles.
 - It needs to be noted that all sickness is a result of sin. In David’s case, it was because of his personal sin. Yet, the original cause of all sickness is the original sin that occurred in the Garden of Eden. Sometimes we can point to a tragedy because of something we can do. Other times we cannot point to a direct act of personal sin. What needs to be remembered is that it is not always a personal sin, but it is always a sin issue. Sickness is not God’s plan. Neither is death.
 - Sometimes, it is not a sickness but some other tragedy. All disease, disaster, death, and destruction come because of original sin. Meaning none of that is God’s plan.
- David could move forward despite not getting the answer he asked God for.
- David gives us a perspective and a path that led him to the most significant victory for himself and, ultimately, for all humanity.

How can we move on when it looks like nothing happened when we prayed?

We see David’s perspective and path that helped him recover from this tragedy.

I. A Guiding Perspective

- a. David’s actions after the death of the child seem cold and calculating unless you understand the perspective he had.
- b. [2Sa 12:23 NASB95] 23 "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

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- c. He kept an eternal perspective.
- d. [1Th 5:10-11 NASB95] 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.
- e. Paul wrote: [Rom 8:18 NASB95] 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- f. With the Christian, even in death, there is no failure or defeat. [1Co 15:54-55 NASB95] 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. 55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"
- g. The point is that we must keep an eternal perspective.
- h. **Note: Sometimes, we bury things before they are done. Do not be so quick to put a period when God is still moving. That period should be a comma. It isn't over.**

II. A Miracle Path

- a. [2Sa 12:20 NASB95] 20 So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed [himself,] and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate.
- b. He got up.
 - i. In the complexity of not really understanding loss, we have to keep moving with God. [1Co 15:58 NASB95] 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not [in] vain in the Lord.
 - ii. Learn to grieve with hope. [1Th 4:13 NASB95] 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.
- c. He worshipped.
 - i. Did not God fail him? Did God refuse him?
 - ii. Most people create distance with loss. David ran to God.
 - iii. Others have their faith shaken. His faith was strengthened.
 - iv. He did not let his experience change his theology. David wrote: [Psa 103:2-3 NASB95] 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; 3 Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;
 - v. David served God through the mystery. He said, "Who knows..." [2Sa 12:22 NASB95] 22 He said, "While the child was [still] alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.'
- d. He comforted others.
 - i. [2Sa 12:24 NASB95] 24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved him
 - ii. Amid his embarrassment, pain, and loss, he comforted Bethsheba.
 - iii. When you keep faith in God in loss, you can comfort others.
 - iv. Failing to keep perspective will cause you to become self-focused. Sometimes it is understandable, but it is disabling.
- e. He got a new victory.
 - i. [2Sa 12:24-25 NASB95] 24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him

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Solomon. Now the LORD loved him 25 and sent [word] through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the LORD'S sake.

- ii. He got another plan and purpose. He got another dream.
 - iii. Solomon: heir, bloodline of Jesus.
 - iv. Greater days ahead. [Psa 30:5 NASB95] 5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy [comes] in the morning.
 - v. Your greatest victory is in front of you!
- **You may have experienced as loss now, but get ready God is taking you on to the next and greatest victory.**