THANKS FOR THAT · PART 1

Aren't You Glad It Didn't Work Out?

When God's No Becomes Your Greatest Blessing

Thanks For That: Finding Gratitude in the Things We Never Wanted

It's easy to be thankful for good things. But what about the prayers that seem unanswered, the doors that closed, and the disappointments we never wanted?

> 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
>
> 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

MY NOTES

01 YOU WEREN'T READY FOR IT

> 17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines,
> although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war
> and return to Egypt.” 18 But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the
> Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.
>
> EXODUS 13:17–18

MY NOTES

02 GOD SEES FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD THAN YOU DO

[1] Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the
sword. [2] Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more
also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” [3] Then he was
afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and
left his servant there. [4] But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and
sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O
LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” [5] And he lay down and slept under
a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.” [6] And he
looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he
ate and drank and lay down again. [7] And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and
touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.” [8] And he arose and
ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the
mount of God. [9] There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD
came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

1 KINGS 19:1–9

MY NOTES

03 IT'S NOT TIME YET

[6] And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. [7] And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. [8] So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. [9] And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." [10] And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

ACTS 16:6–10

[9] But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. [10] This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. [11] And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, [12] so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

ACTS 19:9–12

MY NOTES

04 IT'S NOT YOUR CALLING

[6] Then he called for Solomon his son and charged him to build a house for the LORD, the God of Israel. [7] David said to Solomon, “My son, I had it in my heart to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. [8] But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth. [9] Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. [10] He shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever.’

1 CHRONICLES 22:6–10

MY NOTES

RECAP

01
WE AREN'T READY
Exodus 13:17–18

02
GOD SEES WHAT WE DON'T
1 Kings 19:1–9

03
IT'S NOT OUR TIME
Acts 16:6–10
Acts 19:9–12

04
IT'S NOT OUR CALLING
1 Chronicles 22:6–10

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

JAMES 1:2–4

REFLECT

1. *Think of a prayer God answered with "no" or "not yet." Looking back, what can you thank Him for in it?*

2. *Which closed door are you still pushing on right now? What would it look like to trust God's timing with it this week?*

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