

Volume 2, Day 30: Satisfied with His Purposes

Sometimes I might ask God for a specific outcome. But to expect it to be granted or to push for it or to judge God in light of my disappointment, that will surely destroy my relationship with Him. Paul said in Ephesians 3, “When you know how broad, how deep, how wide God's love is, what you will discover is that He's able to do exceedingly and abundantly beyond anything we could ask or think.” That's not saying, “If you pray for a two bedroom home, God might give you a three bedroom. Or if you pray for a Toyota, you might get a Lexus.

What Paul is saying is, “God is working out His purpose in our lives in ways we can barely conceive.” So when we don't get the thing we want or think we need, what we know is that God's doing something bigger than we can comprehend. Instead of complaining or trying to figure it out, I live inside what's already real in my life, in the pains as well as the joys. And instead of embracing my outcome, I get to embrace His. That's NATO living (not attached to the outcome). I'm attached to Him, and regardless of what outcome comes my way, He doesn't change. He's still going to be with me. And when I understand what He's doing in my situation and circumstances, then my trust in Him grows. No matter what happens to me, instead of being diminished because my expectations are disappointed, I am happy that His purposes are being accomplished. God loves us more than anyone on this planet ever has or ever will. If I do need something, He'll get it to me. But some of the things I think I need wouldn't help me at all. And God has something greater in mind. If you live with Him, not attached to the outcome, then you get to enjoy the fullness of His life as it unfolds in yours.

ENGAGING God -- Bob Clarkson