



Episode 009

Leaders Will Rebound With God

Introduction

At times, in life and ministry we are badly buffeted by storms. As leaders, we may feel crushed by the unrelenting pressures. Your faith may feel like it had been squashed by disappointments. The COVID pandemic is like the last straw. If you feel like a deflated balloon with all its air let out? What can you do?

I would like to encourage you that Leaders Will Rebound With God from [Ex 5:22-6:6](#). In Exodus chapter 5, Moses had finally gone out to confront Pharaoh, inspired by God's encouragement. Only to have his wind knocked out and left with his tail between his legs. Moses' faith took a real battering in the hands of Pharaoh. Moses was faced with failure; he was faced with rejection and revolt from the Israelites. "What was happening?" This is not the way he expected it to go at all!

When we face disappointments in our life or ministry, when things did not turn out the way we expected - remember Moses. He too faced a very difficult situation. His disappointment was multiplied a million-fold because it affected that many people.

As leaders, we cannot remain deflated. We need to and must rebound in God. We must lead our churches forward even in such difficult times. What can we do when our faith is being crushed under the weight of disappointments and challenges? How do we rebound in our faith and leadership? 4 things we should do.



1. Return to Reconnect With God (5v22-23)

“22 Moses returned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? 23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”

When Moses was confused, perplexed by what happened, what did he do? He went straight back to God! The key step to rebound in our faith is to return to reconnect with God!

When some leaders are faced with big disappointments, they throw up their hands and give up on God. This reflects their shallowness of relationship with God as well as their immaturity.

Consider the rechargeable batteries needed for our mobile phones. After using it for some time, it gets run down. It needs to be recharged. The batteries need to be reconnected to a power source.

Our spiritual energies, our faith level run down after facing disappointments. It needs to be recharged! We need to return to reconnect to God. Get down on our knees and cry out to God!

Sometimes, that might feel like the hardest thing to do. Especially if you are blaming God in some way. Throughout the Bible we find godly leaders reconnecting with God after seasons of disappointments, even disasters. At Ziklag, David and his men lost everything, their families and possessions to the Amalekites who took them all while the men were away.

1 Sam 30:6 (NIV)

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

How did David overcome his despair? He connected with God. Unless we return to reconnect, we do not allow God to help us work through our disappointments. When we reconnect, God will bring us through the tough seasons, and we will come out stronger!



Note that Moses spoke honestly to God about his disappointment. It was an honest heart to heart. “Why?” Moses had valid questions and issues to raise with God. Disappointments can be harsh, stripping away at our dreams. We may be disappointed because what we wanted does not turn out. Or because we were humiliated, our ego was bruised. Yet we can embrace disappointments as our friend. Disappointments can force us to evaluate what is truly important to us. When we have plenty, it is easy to get caught up with the peripherals. And the peripherals begin to replace the fundamentals in our hearts.

There are so many successful people who simply get caught up in more success. Chasing after success, but at the expense of the fundamentals in their lives. Pete and Geri planted New Life Fellowship in Queens, New York in 1987. Pete gave his all to lead the growing church. In the first 3 years it grew over 100 people a year. The church was growing. Until one day in 1995, Pete came home and his wife Geri gave him an ultimatum. “I quit because your leadership sucks. You are not dealing with the church problems. It has been too stressful and you have no time for me and the children.” That crisis changed his life and he realised he had some fundamental emotional immaturity in his life. God took him and his wife on a journey of revamping their idea of spirituality. It led to a new way of discipleship and transformed the church into a far healthier and thriving church today. Pete Scazero wrote the best-seller book Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.

Often, we are disappointed over issues which are not the main issues. It is while we wrestle through such issues with God, that it helps us come out leaner, trimmed down. Perhaps more godly and holier. Moses came out wiser and more assured of God's purposes. Let's return to reconnect with God!



2. Realign to God's Perspective (6v1)

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.”

God began to reveal His perspective on the whole matter. To Moses, it was a disaster. To God, everything was proceeding as He expected. Why? Moses had not fully understood what was going to happen. God had told Moses previously that Pharaoh will not let the Israelite slaves go easily.

Exodus 3:19-20 (NIV)

19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. 20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

In other words, there was going to be a battle of wills between God and Pharaoh. It was going to be tough. Eventually, Pharaoh will have no choice but let the Israelites out. Things were going to get worse, before it gets better. Finally, Moses understood God. He re-aligned his views to God's. When we are struggling with disappointments, it is time to realign our compass.

Our limited perspective is based on our observations. Over a limited time period. God observes and knows everything. From beginning to end. To us things are getting worse. To God, it is setting the scene for greater good.

The story of the old farmer. Once there was a poor old farmer, his old wife and young son who lived in a village in a valley. He was so poor he could not afford a horse or bull to plough his land. So his young son would put on the yoke to plough the land. It was tough. One night at the dinner table sat the old farmer, his old wife and young son. The old farmer prayed, “Lord, life is so tough. Please give us an animal to pull the plough.”



The next morning a large group of horsemen rode into the valley and came before the old farmer, asking for directions because they were lost. The old farmer told them that his son could help them find the way out. They were so grateful they offered him a horse. That night at dinner sat the old farmer, his old wife and young son. The old farmer prayed, "Thank you Lord for hearing my prayers. And giving us a horse."

The next morning, the old farmer and his young son was with the horse. The farmer told his son, "This horse is still wild. He needs to be broken in. So you have to get on the horse to tame him." But the horse was so wild that he threw the young son off and broke his leg. That night at the dinner table at the old farmer, his old wife and the young son with the broken leg. The old farmer prayed, "God, why did you give us this horse that threw my son and broke his leg? Why? Now we are worse off!"

The next morning, there was a large ruckus throughout the valley. A large gang of thieves came into the valley and plundered the villagers. They also kidnapped every young man and forced them to join the gang. They came to the old farmer's house and demanded for any young man. The old farmer told them, "I have only one young son. But his leg is broken." The gang went into the house and saw the young man with a broken leg. "Useless!" they exclaimed and left. That night at the dinner table sat the old farmer, his old wife and young son with the broken leg. The old farmer prayed, "Lord, now I now why you gave the wild horse to break my son's leg. Thank you Lord!"

When we realign to God's perspective, we will not be discouraged or disappointed with God. Instead, we will be encouraged and inspired!
Let's realign to rebound with God!



3. Remember Who God Is (6v2-4)

“2 God also said to Moses, “I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens.”

God reminded Moses of who He is. One reason why we feel overwhelmed or discouraged is because we may have forgotten who God is. We may know in our heads, yet we may have forgotten in our hearts. We may have knowledge intellectually but perhaps we have muddied our convictions of who God is.

The important question is: Who is God to you now? If you consider God weak, you are not comforted by God's promise to be with you. If you consider God unreliable, you will not trust Him much. If you consider God indifferent to your situation, you will not expect much support.

On the other hand, if we remember that God is Almighty who carved a path through the Red Sea for the Israelites, then we are confident of God's deliverance. If we remember God as Provider. Providing manna to the Israelites in the desert, we will look to Him for His provision. If we remember that God is a loving God who sacrificed Jesus on the cross to save us, then we will rest assured in His destiny for our lives.

So what should we remember of God? Moses knew of God as El-Shaddai, the All-Powerful God who had provided for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Who blessed and prospered, even miraculously. God who is faithful! We must remember God of the Bible who is faithful and unchanging yesterday, today and tomorrow.

God also reminded Moses that God revealed His name Jehovah at the burning bush. Moses experienced some things of God that even the patriarchs did not. Knowing about God intellectually lays a foundation for us to know God intimately. It is the experiential knowledge of God builds intimacy with God. What we experienced helps deepen our conviction in a greater way about God. Remember those.



About 20 years ago I fell very sick. I had a raging fever that would not come down. I was admitted to hospital. The doctor who examined my lung Xrays said this was the worst case of pneumonia he had ever seen. They pumped antibiotics into my veins. Still did not work. Finally, the doctors worked out I had Legionnaires disease. One of our church doctors visited me and told me that 1/10 die from Legionnaires. Very encouraging. But through it all, I was reminded of God's faithfulness and that He was not finished with me yet. So I was not troubled.

Remember who God is. What you know of God. What you have experienced of God.

4. Rebuild Convictions in God's Promises (6v6)

"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.'"

God reaffirmed His promises to them. God helped Moses revisit God's promises of deliverance. That He will prove He is with them. That He will bring them to the Promised Land. Why did God recall the promises to Moses? It was to rebuild their conviction in God who is faithful to His promises. God has sworn an oath upon his own sacred name that He will do what He has promised. To rebound we must rebuild our convictions in God.

Hebrews 10:35 (NIV)

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

It is crucial to recall the key promises that God may have given us. Either through the Scriptures, through the Holy Spirit or through prophetic words. Write down the prophetic words and visions that God had given us. So that we can remind ourselves clearly one day. As a church in Brisbane, we too have had our ups and downs. We had sent people out to pioneer churches. Quite a few did not succeed or closed down later. Some had chosen to go their own way. It can be discouraging.





At those times, I had to come back to God and remind myself of God's promises. The prophetic words to us we had written down - so that we may revisit them at a later time. It encourages my heart!

Why is rebuilding our convictions so important? In the early days of USA, a weary traveler came to the banks of the Mississippi River for the first time. There was no bridge. It was early winter, and the surface of the mighty stream was covered with ice. Could he dare cross over? Would the uncertain ice be able to bear his weight?

Night was falling, and it was urgent that he reach the other side. Finally, after much hesitation and with many fears, he began to creep cautiously across the surface of the ice on his hands and knees. He thought that he might distribute his weight as much as possible and keep the ice from breaking beneath him.

About halfway over he heard the sound of singing behind him. Out of the dusk there came a man, driving a horse-drawn load of coal across the ice and singing merrily as he went his way. Here he was--on his hands and knees, trembling lest the ice be not strong enough to bear him up! And there, as if whisked away by the winter's wind, went the man, his horses, his sleigh, and his load of coal, upheld by the same ice on which he was creeping!

Are our convictions built deeply upon God's unwavering promises? Like the driver with the horse-drawn carriage of coal? Or are we still crawling across slowly with a weak confidence? Let's rebuild our convictions in God and rebound!



Conclusion

No matter what may have crushed your heart, you were meant to rebound, you can rebound, you will and you do rebound. As leaders, you must rebound in God!

To do so, return and reconnect to God. Realign with God's perspective – see it from God's view. Remember who He is and rebuild your convictions in His promises to you. Even deeper and stronger!

Rise up to push forward with God! Rise up to lead the church through these challenging times. Rise up to trust God for greater things!

Discussion Questions

These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. Why do you think it is crucial for us to return to reconnect with God when we have felt disappointed by God?
2. How do you think realigning our perspectives with God's helps us to rebound with God?
3. Have you ever had to remember who God is once again? Why did you think you needed to?
4. Why do you think rebuilding our convictions in God is an important step to rebounding in God?



Actionable Steps

Following questions are to prompt us on suitable actions. Importantly, come up with steps you will take to make progress. Give them datelines and priority.

1. It is often easier to move along a path when we have worked out concrete steps. What are some concrete steps you could plan to take to reconnect with God when you are disappointed with God? Be specific and practical.
2. What are some practical steps you could take to continually keep your perspectives aligned with God's?
3. What are some simple steps you could take to help you remember your experiences of God?
4. What are some practical steps you can take to rebuild your convictions in God?





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