

# What to Do When Disaster Destroys Your Dream

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There is something beautiful about a life dream. Whether it is a dream that God puts in your heart or a dream that has been with you since childhood, dreams keep us moving forward. Dreams motivate us to persevere. Proverbs 13 states, "A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul..." (v.19) and "a dream fulfilled is a tree of life" (v.12). But not all dreams are fulfilled as we imagined. Sometimes our dreams are crushed. Disaster strikes and all that we hoped for turns to ashes. What do we do when disaster destroys our dreams? This workshop will help bring perspective, rekindle hope, and help you evaluate your expectations toward your hopes and dreams.

Disaster: a calamitous event, especially one occurring suddenly and causing great loss of life, damage, or hardship, as a flood, airplane crash, or business failure (dictionary.com).

Synonyms (some): misfortune, accident, adversity, affliction, calamity, catastrophe,

A disaster may be caused by carelessness, negligence, bad judgment, or the like, or by natural forces, as a hurricane or flood.

Types of Disasters:

- Natural Disaster (Hurricane, flood)
- Man-made (Oil spill, crime, terrorism, war, fire, hazardous materials, and car accidents.
- Self-made (Israel in Babylonian captivity) (addictions, mismanagement, neglect, disobedience, etc. consequences)
- Other's made (betrayal, Theft,
- Confusing and unexpected (infertility, miscarriage, divorce, Bankruptcy, Failed Business, Chronic pain or illness, cancer, death, etc.)

Bible stories of disaster:

- Job
- Joseph
- The Crucifixion of Jesus
- The Disciples following his death
- The Apostle Paul

Themes that flow through disaster:

- God allows tragic circumstances to occur
- He is aware of these circumstances before they occur in time (There are no surprises with God)
- He limits the effects of disaster
- Disaster brings suffering
- He uses disaster for His glory
- He teaches us to trust Him
- He is present in our disaster

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## Defining a Dream

English- something that you have wanted very much to do, be, or have for a long time  
(<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>)

## Types of Dreams

- Vision
- Prophecy
- God's Promises
- Redemption
- Desire
- Hope

## Where Dreams Come From

- God
- Childhood
- Self
- Others

## The Purpose of Dreams

- Dreams provide hope
- Dreams inspire motivation
- Dreams define purpose
- Dreams provide direction

## Biblical Examples of shattered dreams:

- Abraham dreamed of children. He only saw one son of promise.
- Joseph dreamed of his family bowing before him.
- Moses dreamed of entering the Promised Land. His dream was shattered.

## Dreams Don't Turn Out the Way We Imagine

- Joseph
- The Disciples

## Making Necessary Adjustments

- Assessing expectations
- Discerning motives
- God's Story or mine?

## Giving Your Dreams to God

- Faith and Dreams
- Humility and Joy
- Eternity vs. Temporal