

THE GARDEN STUDY
AT COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED

When You Expect God to Be Disappointed in You

*Reconsidering Familiar Assumptions
Through the Father's Character
and the Grace of Christ*

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

"The Lord is
compassionate
and gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding in
steadfast love."
Exodus 34:6

THE REAL-LIFE STRUGGLE

You want to honour God, but when you make a mistake or fall short, you can easily believe that He must be disappointed in you. Familiar thoughts and past experiences can lead to feelings of shame, guilt and the fear that you are never doing enough. This can make it difficult to approach God, causing you to hide, withdraw or strive harder in your own strength instead of resting in His grace.

God's character is revealed through Scripture. He is holy, just, compassionate and faithful, and in Christ we are accepted, forgiven and invited to come near with confidence.

DISCOVER THE TRUTH

Scripture reveals that God takes sin seriously, yet He is also compassionate, gracious and abounding in steadfast love. Through Jesus Christ, our acceptance is secure, our sins are forgiven and we are invited to approach the throne of grace. God's loving correction is not the same as rejection. He understands our human limitations and patiently guides us towards growth in His goodness.

Exodus 34:5-9
God's compassionate and holy character.
Psalms 103:8-14
He knows our frame and shows mercy.
Romans 8:1-4
There is no condemnation in Christ.
Hebrews 12:3-13
His discipline is an expression of love.
1 John 2:1-2
Jesus is our advocate.

THREE STEPS TO RENEW YOUR THINKING

1

IDENTIFY THE PATTERN

Notice when you expect God to be disappointed in you and the familiar thoughts, fears or past experiences that shape that belief.

2

EXAMINE THE TRUTH

Consider what Scripture teaches about God's character, the gospel, conviction and correction, and how it challenges your assumptions.

3

CHOOSE A FAITHFUL RESPONSE

Take a practical step to bring your thoughts in line with God's truth, respond with repentance where needed and approach Him with confidence in Christ.

PAUSE AND REFLECT

- 1 What do I instinctively imagine God thinks about me when I make a mistake?
- 2 Have I been confusing God's loving correction with the belief that He is continually disappointed in me?
- 3 In what ways has guilt, shame or the fear of rejection influenced how I pray or approach God?
- 4 What do Exodus 34:5-9, Romans 8:1-4 and 1 John 2:1-2 reveal about God's character and grace?
- 5 What is one familiar assumption I need to replace with God's truth?

A PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Heavenly Father,
Thank You that You are compassionate, gracious and faithful. Thank You for sending Your Son, that I may be forgiven and accepted through Him. Help me to recognise when I have believed old assumptions about Your disappointment, and renew my mind through Your truth. Give me humility to repent, confidence to approach You and a deeper understanding of Your loving character. May I live in the freedom of Your grace and continue to grow in the goodness You are working in me.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

A RENEWED UNDERSTANDING

Old thought:

God must be disappointed in me because I still make mistakes.

Renewed understanding:

God takes sin seriously, but my acceptance in Christ rests upon His saving work. I can respond to correction with repentance and growth rather than assuming rejection.

NEXT STEP

Continue exploring The Garden Study and discover more articles to encourage a life increasingly shaped by God's truth.

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