



CLIMATE CHANGE, Part 4: Storm Clouds

INTRODUCTION

We all have expectations. Some are realized and some aren't. When our expectations come face-to-face with real-life challenges, it can batter our dreams. Storm clouds of bitterness, anger, and cynicism form in our lives...and we forfeit hope.

But God is attempting to build hope in your life. Fighting for hope isn't about denying reality; it's about embracing reality. Where there's hope, there's a healthy heart. Where there's a healthy heart, there's a healthy emotional climate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you tend to see the glass as half empty or half full? Explain.
2. Talk about a time when you realized a dream, large or small. How did that affect your emotional climate?
3. Have you ever had to let go of a dream, large or small? If so, what did you do to come to grips with that reality?
4. Think about a time in your life when you felt close to God. Were your circumstances good or bad? If they were bad, why did you feel close to God?
5. What do you find challenging about the idea that God uses suffering to increase our trust in him? What's comforting about that idea?
6. In what area of your life do you need to declare your trust in God? What's the next right thing for you to do in that area?

MOVING FORWARD

When your dreams meet reality, choose hope.

If you're in a season of suffering, declare your trust in God. Persevere by doing the next right thing even if you don't know where the next right thing leads. God will show up and build his character in you...and that leads to hope. When your life is based on hope in God, you'll have a healthy emotional climate.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.*

Proverbs 13:12