

God Uses Setbacks, Disappointments and Even Traumatic Events to Change the Course of Our Lives



Dr. Betty Dillon, DDS with brother,
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Have you ever found yourself in a state where you felt defeated, disappointed, and confused?

Have you ever felt that you have reached that invisible ceiling and found yourself saying, “This is as good as it gets!”

Have you ever felt that you will never regain anything better than what it was you just lost?

If so, let me share with you how God uses these setbacks, disappointments, and even

traumatic events to change the course of our lives.

I am from Magnolia, Mississippi. My parents, Monroe and Luvarn Dillon, raised 14 children (7 boys, and 7 girls) with little education and very hard work. My father had little more than a sixth grade education and my mom did not receive her GED until 1978; yet they both knew the value of education and made sure that we all went to high school and most of us went to college.

After graduating with a chemistry degree from Southern University, my first job was as a polymer chemist for Ciba Vision. We made new products by putting raw materials together, some of which were hazardous. Sometimes they reacted in an unpredictable way. One morning I came to work and found there had been an overnight explosion in my lab. After investigating the cause of the explosion, the chemical manufacturer told us that we literally made a bomb. At this point, God got my attention, and I reevaluated my dedication to the chemistry field.

With much prayer, I decided to change my career path and pursue dentistry. I had two brothers who were dentists, so I applied to dental school; and in 1991, I

attended Meharry Medical College. I was newly divorced, older than most of my classmates, and the mother of a 4-year old son. In 1995, I graduated,

I returned to Atlanta and worked with two doctors as an associate for 1 ½ years. My intentions were to work with them until I gained the experience and confidence to open my own practice, maybe 4 to 5 years. However, after a misunderstanding, my contract was not renewed. In other words, I was fired.

I felt disappointed and vulnerable. I was an unemployed single parent with a mortgage and school loans. I did not know what I was going to do. I decided to step out on faith. I found a building to open my dental office and signed the lease. However, when I signed the lease, I did not expect to be turned down by every bank to which I applied for a loan. The banks could only see a single parent with a lot of debt and no business experience. By adding the lease to my obligations, I was in a worse predicament than before. Now, I felt defeated!

Nevertheless, when you are at your weakest, God's strength is revealed. I did not give up. I used my savings that I earmarked for my taxes and purchased equipment from a doctor who had gone out of business. There was not enough money left to buy supplies. I started on a wing and a prayer.

One day, while in Office Depot, I saw the president of First Southern Bank. I approached him and said, "Hello. Your bank rejected my loan application, but I will be successful with or without you guys!" He looked amazed and asked, "Who are you?" I told him who I was and about my leased space. He said, "You know, I remember your loan package and I know that building....I tell you what, I will give this my undivided attention and I will call you next week." The next week I received a very small loan after using everything I owned, except my child, as collateral. I was off and running. I was happy!

Now, 13 years later, I am still going strong! I give God the glory! I once asked the previous owner of my building what made him lease the property to me rather than another doctor who also wanted the space. He responded, "You didn't have much money, but you had the **largest vision!**" He reminded me that when I signed the lease with my then 8-year-old son, I made the statement that I wanted

to expand to have the entire floor with other doctors working for me. I also wanted to provide a place for my son if he wanted to become a dentist. My son is now 22 and a senior at Clark-Atlanta University. He plans to become a dentist. I not only expanded to acquire the entire floor, I now own the entire building and have other doctors working for me.

I have always had a desire to give back. I work in a constantly growing and diverse community with many economically challenged people. I have traveled with Greenforest's Women on Mission IV missionary trips to Haiti and Jamaica, organizing the dental care. In 2008, I hosted a health fair project at my office called Dentistry from the Heart whereby dentists and hygienists gave a day of their time performing free dental services. This year we added medical doctors to donate their services and our project is now called Healing from the Heart.

In conclusion, God is the orchestrator of our lives. He uses setbacks, disappointments, and even traumatic events to push us outside of our comfort zone and change the direction of our lives. In our weakest moments, God's strength is revealed. Through his love for us, he empowers us to walk in his divine timing. Just know that God will not place any more on us than we can bear and that when he closes one door he will open others. He will not leave you or forsake you! So be ready to move to the next level.

Be Blessed!!!!

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The Public Relations Ministry thanks Dr. Dillon for sharing her God Story with us. What is your God Story? Will you share your story so that others can be blessed by what God has done in your life? Contact us at announcements@greenforest.org.

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