

## *Rejecting Rejection (edited)*

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Barbara Corcoran, real estate mogul and financial investor is undeniably successful today, yet her career began somewhat unfavorably. When she was 22-years old Barbara was a waitress whose boyfriend gave her a loan to launch a real estate firm. Initially, they built the company together, but after seven years, the boyfriend pulled out of the business. Barbara felt blindsided, even more so when he told her that he was marrying her secretary.

Years later, Corcoran was being considered to become one of the judges on Shark Tank. She initially did not get the job, losing it to another female entrepreneur. Undaunted, Barbara wrote a letter to the production team telling them what they would lose out on if they didn't hire her for the team. She won the spot on the show. "I said that all the best things happened to me on the heels of rejection and I considered his rejection a lucky charm," Corcoran told *Entrepreneur*. "I cited half dozen similar situations throughout my career where obstacles turned into my greatest opportunities."

Donna Partow, online Bible teacher, says, "*What feels like rejection is often God's protection when you're heading in the wrong direction.*" Rejection, when handled properly, can turn into the greatest opportunity in a person's life. God has a plan and purpose for each of our lives, and a divinely chartered road map that leads us on to that purpose. But when circumstances and choices derail us, God often halts and recalculates, in order to put us back on the right track.

The action taken to get us back on track sometimes involves removing certain people from our lives, closing specific doors that shouldn't be open, kicking us out of jobs, or creating discomfort in relationships. All these actions and processes result in some degree of discomfort and a feeling of rejection. Rejection can hurt effusively, as it can cut deep, knock the wind out of us, and bring broken heartedness and disappointments. Certainly, we all have had our share of rejections and have stories to support the facts.

Despite how rejection can be devastating to us, we must keep guard against giving in to feelings associated with rejection. Being rejected and feeling rejected are distinctly different. Rejection is a desire for love, but does not believe that anyone really cares. Those people feeling rejected find it difficult to give love or receive love. They feel left out and do not have a sense of belonging. This can lead to a multitude of emotional issues such as insecurity, low self-esteem, unworthiness, and self-pity.

Feeling unwanted can open the door to lust in an attempt to try to please others, to receive love and acceptance. Once a spirit of rejection sets in, no matter what others do, the person will not feel love and acceptance. Often a person who has suffered rejection will inwardly rebel against her situation and eventually manifest an attitude of rebellion.

Rejection is one of the main causes of teenage rebellion. Kids between 13 and 18 crave a great amount of attention and acceptance. When they feel like they are not getting enough recognition from their parents, they feel rejected and rebellion sets in. Similarly, when wives feel like their husbands are not being responsiveness or giving them the affection

they crave, the women display an attitude or a spirit of rebellion, defiance, anger, bitterness, distrust, stubbornness, and control.

The rejected person will often swing from periods of rejection to periods of rebellion, unsure of how to think or feel. You can imagine the problems this could cause. Rejected/rebellious souls are fraught with doubts about themselves and as to whether God loves them. James 1:6-8 tells us that a double-minded person is unstable in all her ways. Jesus was rejected by many people, but never felt or acted rejected. The Bible tells us that He came to His own people, but they did not receive Him, but as many as received him to them He gave the power to become the sons of God, even as many as believed in His name. (See John 1:11-12.)

*“When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the Lord will take care of me,”* Ps 27:10. This scripture implies that even if a parent rejects her own child, God will never forsake the child. I don't care who has rejected you. Take comfort in the fact that God will never forsake or reject you.

The cure for rejection

- Is to know how much God loves and accepts you.
- Is to frequently listen and meditate on God's Word regarding who you are in Christ.
- Is to live a life of worship.

Could it be that God allows the rejection because He has a better plan?