

# Discouragement

## Introduction

- 1. The greatest of saints can get discouraged from time to time.**
- 2. We live in a fallen world where we are trying to bring God's kingdom to earth through our prayers and teaching.**
- 3. Everyone will encounter the devil's tool of "discouragement."**

One day the Devil decided to put his tools up for sale. On the date of the sale, the tools were placed on display, each being marked with its sale price. There were a treacherous lot of implements: hatred, envy, jealousy, deceit, lying, pride, and so on. Laying apart from the rest was a harmless looking tool that was well worn, and priced very high.

"What is the name of this tool?" asked one of the purchasers, pointing to it.

"That is discouragement," the Devil replied.

"Why have you priced it so high?"

"Because, it is more useful to me than the others. I can pry open and get inside a man's heart with that, when I cannot get near him with the other tools. It is badly worn because I use it on almost everyone, since so few people know it belongs to me."

- A. We can't live in that dark place. We must learn to resist the devil and trust in God's deliverance.**
- 4. Dark feelings can overwhelm us when we are emotionally down, but we need to realize that most of God's mighty warriors have become discouraged. Let's look at a few other warriors who were discouraged:**

## God's Mighty Warriors

### 1. David.

A. David was often discouraged during his years of fleeing from King Saul.

1) Once, when David and his men were away from their camp in Ziklag, he received news that the Amalekites had invaded, burned the city, and kidnaped their women and children.

2) David and his men wept, and then they conspired to stone him.

a. David consulted God, pursued the Amalek raiders, and recovered everything.

1 Samuel 30:6 Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. **But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.**

B. The Psalmist wrote:

Psalms 42:11 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, **The help of my countenance and my God.**

## 2. Jeremiah.

A. Jeremiah wept over the destruction of Jerusalem and recorded him Lamentations:

**Lamentations 3:1-8**

B. Like many others, he felt that God had abandoned him.

1) Yet in the same Lamentation, he said he still had hope. He trusted God and called out to Him.

**Lamentations 3:21-31**

## 3. John the Baptist.

A. John the Baptist faced discouragement while in prison.

1) He faced doubts and asked Jesus, "Are You the coming one, or do we look for another?"

2) Jesus encouraged him and honored him in his weakest moment.

**Matthew 11:2-6**

B. Even though he did not understand, John was enabled to speak boldly to King Herod.

Matthew 14:4 ....John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."

C. We also can face moments of deep darkness and discouragement in the midst of spiritual battles, especially in prayer.

1) What are we to do in order to resist those times?

## How to Overcome Discouragement

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for **the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**"

- There are several principles we can apply in our lives in order to overcome the tool of discouragement:

### 1. Give up the right to understand.

A. Things happen that we do not fully understand.

- 1) In those moments we must lay down our right to understand and choose to trust God wholeheartedly.
- 2) Our faith must come before our understanding. His ways are higher, He is in control, and He will take care of each one of us!

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are **My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

### 2. Measure success by obedience, not by outward success.

- A. We often look to numbers and outward achievements, but God sees things differently.
- B. Stay focused on obedience to what God has told you to do, and don't compare yourself with others. God sees your worth and rejoices in it.

**1 Samuel 15:22**

**2 Corinthians 10:12**

**3. Read God's Word and pray over your daily life.**

**A. Have you ever noticed when you're discouraged, how different you feel after God speaks to your heart through His Holy Word?**

- 1) It's as if a light goes on that dispels the darkness.**
- 2) When we read His Word and pray, we can have a living, active dialogue with Him in our hearts.**

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

**4. Choose to be faithful.**

**A. God is faithful, and He values faithfulness.**

- 1) Look for His "well done" in your life.**
- 2) Seek to be faithful over a few things and with what is in your hands now (that which you have control over).**

Matthew 25:23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

**5. Learn the habit of giving thanks.**

**A. It is hard to be discouraged with a thankful heart.**

- 1) Remember what God has done for you in the past, and encourage yourself in the Lord.**
- 2) Discouragement is a loss of perspective. He will complete the good work in you.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**6. Resist discouragement in the name of Jesus.**

**A. We are in a spiritual battle, and there is a spirit of discouragement that we can resist in Jesus' name.**

- 1) Darkness is covering the earth, but there is power in the name of Jesus to resist the Devil.**  
**1 Peter 5:8-9**

## Conclusion

1. It could be that you are going through some sort of discouragement today.
2. Remember this:
  - 1) God is with you and He is good.
  - 2) You are deeply valued by Him, and He has a purpose for your life.
3. There is a battle through discouragement and offense designed to silence Biblical teaching at this time.
  - A. God has built His church to stand with boldness and speak His voice.
  - B. We MUST resist the Devil's tool of discouragement in this battle for people's souls.
  - C. There are still many who have not bowed the knee to Baal.
  - D. We must position our heart in faithful obedience and encouragement in God
4. Do not fear or be discouraged. He is with you! Put your hope and trust in God and He will deliver you!
  - 1) Believe and trust God even if you don't understand it all.
  - 2) Walk in minute-by-minute obedience.
  - 3) Read God's Word and pray over your daily life.
  - 4) Be faithful in the small things.
  - 5) Give thanks consistently.
  - 6) Resist discouragement – praying often in the name of Jesus.

