

# **Don't Be Discouraged**

1. BETTER WORLD TO COME
2. STRIVE TO BEAR UP
3. CONTINUE IN THE FAITH
4. ALWAYS LOOK TO JESUS
5. HOLD TO THE TRUTH, AT ALL COST
6. STRENGTH IN THE LORD
7. TURN TO THE WORD

Good Morning!

Thankful to be here, and thankful for your presence

The Lesson is entitled "Don't Be Discouraged".

All of us get discouraged from time to time, especially as we face problems of various kinds. So, How can we keep from "losing heart" or being discouraged?

## I. WE CAN KEEP OUR MINDS ON THE BETTER WORLD TO COME

### A. In due time, we will reap a bountiful harvest of blessings.

John wrote,

- "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall **FEED** them, and shall **LEAD** them, unto **LIVING fountains of WATERS**: and God shall **WIPE away ALL tears** from their eyes." ([Rev.7:17](#))
- "...and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (reads [Rev.21:4](#))

### B. There is a better place beyond the grave, and we need to keep our eyes focused on it.

Peter said,

- "Wherefore **GIRD UP** the loins of your mind, **BE SOBER**, and **HOPE** to the end for the **GRACE** that is to be **BROUGHT** unto you, **AT** the revelation of Jesus Christ;" ([1Pet.1:13](#))
- "**SET** your **AFFECTION** on things ABOVE, **NOT** on things on the earth." (Paul said in [Col.3:2](#))

How can we keep from "losing heart" or being discouraged?

## II. STRIVE TO BEAR UP, UNDER TRIALS & HARDSHIPS

### A. We Should Rejoice under the fiery trials

In [1Pet.4:12-13](#) we find this thought.

- "Beloved, think it **NOT strange** concerning the fiery trial, which is to **TRY** you, **AS** though some **STRANGE** thing **HAPPENED** unto you: <sup>13</sup> but **REJOICE**, inasmuch as ye are **PARTAKERS** of Christ's sufferings; that, **WHEN** His glory shall be revealed, ye may be **GLAD** also with exceeding JOY." ([1Pet.4:12-13](#))

**Everyone will face a certain amount of adversity, some more than others.**

- "In the **DAY** of prosperity be **JOYFUL**, but in the **DAY** of adversity **CONSIDER**: God also hath **SET** the one, over **AGAINST** the other, to the **END**, that man should find NOTHING after him." ([Ecc.7:14](#))

**Fiery trials can serve a good purpose.**

James wrote,

- "My brethren, **COUNT** it all joy, **WHEN** ye fall into divers temptations; <sup>3</sup> **KNOWING** this, that the **TRYING** of your faith, **WORKETH** patience. <sup>4</sup> But let **PATIENCE**, have her **PERFECT work**, that ye may be **PERFECT** and **ENTIRE**, wanting NOTHING." ([Jms.1:2-4](#))

## B. We Should Let hardships become an AID, rather than a Hindrance

Paul said,

- “lest I should be exalted ABOVE measure, **THROUGH** the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a **THORN** in the flesh, the messenger of satan to **BUFFETT** me, lest I should be exalted ABOVE measure.<sup>8</sup> For this **THING** I besought the Lord **THRICE**, that it might depart **FROM** me.<sup>9</sup> And He said unto me, **MY** Grace is **SUFFICIENT** for thee: for my **STRENGTH** is made perfect IN weakness. Most **GLADLY** therefore will I rather glory IN my infirmities, that the **POWER** of Christ may **REST upon** me.” ([2Cor.12:7-9](#))

**Paul suffered many hardships, yet, he called them a "Light Affliction."**

- “For which cause we faint not; but though our **OUTWARD** man perish, yet the **INWARD** man is renewed day by day.<sup>17</sup> For our **LIGHT AFFLICTION**, which is but for a **MOMENT**, **WORKETH** for us, a far more exceeding and eternal WEIGHT of **GLORY**;" ([2Cor.4:16-17](#))

He could only **DO** this, by **KEEPING** his mind **FOCUSED** on the eternal GLORY that was to follow.

How can we keep from "losing heart" or being discouraged?

## III. CONTINUE IN THE FAITH NO MATTER WHAT LIFE MIGHT BRING

### A. We can have victory THROUGH our faith.

- “For whatsoever is **BORN** of God, **OVERCOMETH** the world: and this is the **VICTORY**, that **OVERCOMETH** the world, **EVEN** our FAITH.” ([1Jn.5:4](#))

**We Shouldn't Doubt, but have faith.**

- “Peter ...said, **Lord**, if it be thou (WILL), **BID** me **COME** unto thee **ON** the water.<sup>29</sup> And He said, **COME**. And **WHEN** Peter was come down **OUT** of the ship, he **WALKED** on the water, to **GO** to Jesus.<sup>30</sup> But **WHEN** he saw the wind BOISTEROUS, he was **AFRAID**; and beginning to SINK, he **CRIED**, saying, Lord, **SAVE** me.<sup>31</sup> And **IMMEDIATELY** Jesus **STRETCHED forth** His hand, and **CAUGHT** him, and said unto him, O thou of **LITTLE FAITH**, wherefore didst thou **DOUBT**?” ([Matt.14:28-31](#))

Peter's faith **WAVERED**, when he **SAW** the strong waves.

We may not walk on water, but we will **WALK through** some **TOUGH situations**.

If we **FOCUS** on the **WAVES** of difficulties and hardships, without **LOOKING** to **JESUS** for **HELP**, we too, will despair and **SINK**.

How can we keep from "losing heart" or being discouraged?

#### IV. ALWAYS LOOK TO JESUS

##### A. Jesus said, "Be of **GOOD** cheer; I have **OVERCOME** the world." ([Jn.16:33](#))

Even as Jesus spoke these words, He was in the shadow of death.  
Jesus knew that He was about to die a very excruciating, painful death.

**He was able to face it, by looking at the joy that was to follow.**

- "LOOKING unto Jesus, the **AUTHOR** and **FINISHER** of our faith; who for the **JOY** that was **SET** before Him, **ENDURED** the cross, **DESPISING** the shame, and is **SET down** at the **RIGHT hand**, of the **THRONE** of God." ([Heb.12:2](#))
- "And now, O Father, **GLORIFY** Thou Me **WITH** Thine Own Self with the glory which I had **WITH** Thee, before the world was." ([Jn.17:5](#))

##### B. Remember, Jesus Himself Received a lot of **UNJUST** Criticism.

- "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.  
<sup>19</sup> The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children." ([Matt.11:18-19](#))

We too, will receive unjust criticism

- "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me." ([Jn.15:20-21](#))

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#### V. CONTINUE TO, HOLD TO THE TRUTH, AT ALL COST

- "And whatsoever ye **DO** in word (that is, **teaching**) or deed (that is, **practice**), do **ALL** in the **NAME** of the Lord Jesus (that is, by His **Authority**), giving **THANKS** to God and the Father by Him." ([Col.3:17](#))
- "Whosoever transgresseth (that is, to go beyond the bounds of), and **ABIDETH** not, **IN** the **DOCTRINE** of Christ, hath **NOT** God.  
He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.  
<sup>10</sup> If there come any unto you, and **BRING NOT** this doctrine, receive him **NOT** into your house, **NEITHER** bid him God speed: <sup>11</sup> for he that biddeth him God speed is **PARTAKER** of his evil deeds." ([2Jn.9-11](#))
- "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, **IF** ye continue **IN** My Word, **THEN** are ye My disciples indeed; <sup>32</sup> and ye shall **KNOW** the Truth, and the **TRUTH** shall make you free." ([Jn.8:31-32](#))

We can never decide something through emotionalism or a "What if?" or an "hypothetical situation."

Remember all churches will have problems, and we must try to deal with them, as best we can.

Some says, "If only I could attend a church like the New Testament churches."

- If that be the case, how about the church at Corinth. It, too, was a New Testament church.
- It had at least ten major problems, and those brethren needed to deal with and correct those, **IF** they wished to be **PLEASING** to the Lord.

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## VI. STRENGTHEN OURSELVES IN THE LORD

- “David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons, and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself **IN** the Lord, his God.” ([1Sam.30:6](#))

### A. Think of the situation David and his men were in

Turn to [1Sam.30:1-5](#).

If you would like to follow along, we'll be reading from [1Sam.30:1-5](#)

- “And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Zik-lag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Zik-lag, and smitten Zik-lag, and burned it with fire; <sup>2</sup> and had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. <sup>3</sup> So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. <sup>4</sup> Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. <sup>5</sup> And David's two wives were taken captives...” ([1Sam.30:1-5](#))

### How did David strengthened himself in the Lord?

**We are NOT told here, but we are in other places.**

- “In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry came before Him, even into His Ears.” ([Psa.18:6](#))
- “I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. <sup>2</sup> My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. <sup>3</sup> O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. <sup>4</sup> I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. <sup>5</sup> They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. <sup>6</sup> This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. <sup>8</sup> O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. <sup>9</sup> O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him.” ([Psa.34:1-9](#))
- “I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup> He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. <sup>3</sup> And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.” ([Psa.40:1-3](#))

If We Are Interested In Strengthening Ourselves In The Lord, We'll,

## B. Pray continuously and fervently

- Jesus “spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” ([Lk.18:1](#))
- “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.” ([Jms.5:13](#))
- “Be careful for nothing (Don’t Worry); but **IN** every thing **BY** prayer and supplication **WITH** thanksgiving **LET** your requests be made **KNOWN** unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the **PEACE** of God, which passeth **ALL** understanding, shall **KEEP** your hearts and minds **THROUGH** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.4:6-7](#))
- “The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” ([Prov.18:10](#))
- We should “boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” ([Heb. 13:6](#))

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## VII. TURN TO THE WORD FOR STRENGTH AND COMFORT

- “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and **COMFORT** of the scriptures, might have hope.” ([Rom.15:4](#))

### A. From The Old Testament, Consider [Isa.40:28-31](#)

- “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary?

there is no searching of His understanding.

<sup>29</sup> He giveth power to the faint;

and to them that have no might, He increaseth strength.

<sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary,  
and the young men shall utterly fall:

<sup>31</sup> but they that **WAIT** upon the Lord, shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings as eagles;

they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

1. All human beings have their weakness, but God's power and strength never diminishes.
2. He is never too tired, or too busy to listen and help. He is the source of our strength.
3. When we feel all of life crushing us, and we cannot go another step, We should remember, we can call upon God and renew our strength.
4. “Wait(ing) upon the Lord” ([Verse 31](#)),  
is patiently relying on Him to give us strength.

### Our God is able

- “Now unto Him that is **ABLE** to **DO** exceeding abundantly **ABOVE** all that we **ASK** or **THINK**, according to the power that worketh in us, <sup>21</sup> unto Him be glory **IN** the church **BY** Christ Jesus **THROUGHOUT** all ages, world without end. Amen.” ([Eph.3:20-21](#))

## Let's Consider [Ezek.37:1-10](#)

If you care to follow along, turn to [Ezekial chapter 37](#), we'll be reading from [verses 1 – 14](#).

- “The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, <sup>2</sup> and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.

<sup>4</sup> Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: <sup>6</sup> and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; **and ye shall know that I am the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. <sup>8</sup> And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.” (that's [Ezek.37:1-10](#))

**Our God is able to give life to a whole valley of dry bones.**

**God's purpose of the vision is stated in verses [11-14](#).**

Let's continue our reading.

- “<sup>11</sup> Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> **And ye shall know that I am the Lord,** when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, <sup>14</sup> and shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: **then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.”** ([Ezek.37:11-14](#))

## Now, Let's Consider [Psalm 23](#)

The Psalms inspire, comfort, and encourage us, just when we need a word from the Lord.

If you care to follow along, we'll be reading from [Psalm chapter 23](#).

- "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
  
<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul:  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.  
  
<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
**I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;**  
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.  
  
<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
  
<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

### 1. The imagery in the Psalm

is a flock of sheep, gently and harmlessly, feeding in fertile pastures, under the care of a skillful, watchful, and tender shepherd, the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

### 2. The consolations of the Lord

are the still waters, by which the saints are led;  
they are the streams which flow  
from the Fountain of living waters.

### 3. The valley of the shadow of death

denotes the most severe and terrible affliction one could undergo.  
Yet, "I will fear no evil, for thou art with me."

## B. CONSIDER SOME PASSAGES From the New Testament

- “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of His Grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” ([Acts 20:32](#))

### Consider with me, [1Pet.5:8-11](#)

- “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: <sup>9</sup> whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. <sup>10</sup> But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. <sup>11</sup> To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” (that’s [1Pet.5:8-11](#))

1. Satan is the source of all evil and suffering.
2. God is able to "perfect" (mend or repair) us and make us strong.
3. Whatever pain we might have, the Eternal God is the God of all comfort.

Let us come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain help in our time of need. ([Heb.4:16](#))

### Consider [Jude 24](#)

- “Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory, with exceeding joy,”

1. The audience to whom Jude wrote was vulnerable to heresies and to temptations toward immoral living.
2. Jude encouraged the believers to remain firm in their faith and trust in God's promises, for their future.
3. This was all the more important because they were living in a time of increased apostasy.

**We too are living in the last days, much closer to the end than were the original readers of this letter.**

4. Although there is much iniquity around us, We need not be afraid or give up in despair. God is able to keep us from falling, and to bring us into His presence and give us exceeding joy.
- “Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, <sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.” ([2Thess.2:16-17](#))

## In-Conclusion,

- A. Disappointments, discouragements, and hardships will come.
- B. We need to be steadfast and unmovable.
- C. The Eternal God is perfectly able to comfort.
- D. Someday, we shall reap if we don't give up.
- E. Let us continue to strengthen ourselves, in the Lord our God.

If you have a spiritual NEED, won't you COME,

- **Believing** ([Jn.8:24](#); [Heb.11:6](#)),
- **Repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#); [Acts 17:30](#); [2Pet.3:9](#); [1Jn.1:9](#); [Jn.8:11](#)),
- **Confessing** ([Acts 8:37](#); [Matt.10:32-33](#); [Rom.10:9-10](#)),
- Be **Baptized** INTO Christ ([Gal.3:26-27](#); [Rom.6:3-5](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [1Pet.3:21](#); [Acts 22:16](#))  
...Where **ALL** "spiritual blessings" exist ([Eph.1:3](#))
- And Remain **Faithful** ([Rev.2:10](#)), or **Endure** until the end ([Matt.24:13](#))?

**Don't Delay, Please COME, as TOGETHER we Stand and Sing.**