

Sunday, May 11, 2014

**Are You Pursuing God's Plans?**  
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The bible says that a dream comes to pass with a lot of work. You have been holding on to a dream, and you can feel at times it is slipping through your hands like fine sand. What are you going to do to bring it to pass? Are you going to do what you need to do to bring it to pass, because it will require us to work hard? It is required for us to find our plan and purpose. Our dreams can be restored to us when hope is lost, if only we will do the work.

God has a plan and purpose for each and every one of us, something that He has for us to accomplish on this earth. He did not create us to aimlessly go about life. We were created with a purpose and have course corrections along the way, but we are to stay on track and accomplish the purpose God has for us.

In Thessalonians Paul speaks of satan hindering him once and again or he would have made it sooner to his destination. The word hinder means to break up the road that you are traveling or in runners terms it is to bump and cause you to lose your stride.

On your journey to fulfill the purpose that God has for you in this life, the road you are traveling will be broken up occasionally for the purpose of causing you to take a side journey and then you end up sitting down and doing nothing. But during those times God has a purpose, and satan has a plan and purpose. Satan's plan and purpose is to get us to quit, and one of the tools satan uses is discouragement to get us to lose our focus.

It is one of the tools that the devil uses frequently on God's people. He has a tool shed and he frequently pulls out the tool of discouragement to use on us. So, how do we handle discouragement in our life?

Discouragement means to neutralize. If your vehicle is in neutral gear it has no power, the wheels won't turn and you go nowhere. That is what discouragement is designed to do to Christians so forward progress is stopped.

In the book of Psalms David would talk openly about his problems and his enemies, and after he did he always praised the Lord for his deliverance. When discouragement captivates us it will take away our voice of thanksgiving and God inhabits the praise of his people. He doesn't inhabit our whining or complaining. David learned this lesson in Psalm 77:3

**Psalm 77:3 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup> *I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah.*

If you continue to read the Psalm David goes on to Praise the Lord. David would praise the Lord for just His goodness, and the simple things as the moon and the stars. He kept his focus right.

How do we handle discouragement? If we turn our focus to the negative and stay there it will poison our future. As scripture say, life and death are in the power of the tongue.

**Proverbs 18:21(KJV)**

<sup>21</sup> *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

The first thing we have to handle discouragement is prayer.

**Luke 18 (KJV)**

*18 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

If we don't maintain our prayer life that we will faint.

**Luke 18 (AMP)**

*18 Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to <sup>[a]</sup>turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up).*

If discouragement comes it will give us a quit and give up attitude.

God is no respecter of persons and His principles never change and the same is true of satan. Every one of us on occasion have had thoughts cross our minds of quitting. That is a mark of discouragement and despair, and if we don't make proper correction we will get put in neutral and won't accomplish anything.

However, there is something that regular fellowship with God consistently that makes a difference in our lives.

**2 Corinthians 4:16 (AMP)**

<sup>16</sup> *Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day.*

When the inner man is being built up through study and prayer it is ready for any challenge that comes its way. When the adversary comes the inner man will rise up and not faint or give up.

We need to maintain a spirit of thanksgiving so that we don't get into discouragement. We need to be grateful for what God has done and not look at what hasn't happened.

A critical spirit finds fault and that will stop our progress.

The next is very simple. If we have a goal and are focused on it we will do certain things to bring it to pass. We stay focused and are disciplined. We are to never lose our focus as it will take us off track. We are to run our race until the race is run.

Verse one of Hebrews chapter 12 is addressing us and then verses 2 and 3 are speaking of Jesus.

**Hebrews 12:1-3 (KJV)**

*12 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

<sup>2</sup> *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.*

<sup>3</sup> *For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

Those scriptures indicate that Jesus never lost sight of where he was going and he didn't give up and faint.

### **Hebrews 12:2-3 (MSG)**

#### **Discipline in a Long-Distance Race**

*12<sup>2-3</sup> Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!*

We need to keep our eyes on Heaven. We can't forget about our destination. We are just passing through and our destination is Heaven.

Jesus is in you and me, it's the hope of glory. Col 1:26-27

### **Colossians 1:26-27 (KJV)**

<sup>26</sup> *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:*

<sup>27</sup> *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

Lastly.

David had been running from Saul for over four years and Saul had made 21 attempts on his life. Kind of looks like things aren't going David's way and are you're really supposed to be king? He had been anointed but it wasn't going in that direction.

The men David has trained from nobody's and they had made a turnaround were wanting to turn on him and stone him.

The bible says that David encouraged himself in the lord.

### **1 Samuel 30:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> *And 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.*

How do we encourage ourselves in the Lord? David went to the house of God and asked for specific instructions from the Lord. David got his word. And he followed through as he should.

If you are in a time of discouragement it is God's plan that you recover. And recover it all. Hold steady and keep believing God. God will bring restoration.

The following scriptures are from when Paul was experiencing much difficulty. He had been being harassed continually. He had sought the Lord three times and he kept being harassed. He received revelation about God's grace and where it shows up and become effective. It is when we are our weakest.

## **2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (AMP)**

<sup>9</sup> *But He said to me, My grace (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and <sup>[a]</sup>show themselves most effective in [your] weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the strength and power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may <sup>[b]</sup>pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!*

<sup>10</sup> *So for the sake of Christ, I am well pleased and take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities and distresses; for when I am weak <sup>[c]</sup>in human strength, then am I [truly] strong (able, powerful <sup>[d]</sup>in divine strength).*

Using the term pitch a tent refers back to the tent in the wilderness where the Shekinah presence of God was there. When we are our weakest and wanting to quit is when God can show up and will. Whatever you encounter God's grace is sufficient.

To recap, how are we going to resist discouragement?

- develop a lifestyle of prayer
- maintain a grateful heart
- keep focused on where you are headed
- encourage ourselves in the Lord

Father we worship you. We declare your kindness and goodness today. Father may your presence tabernacle over us, in Jesus name. Amen.