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Discouragement #2
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We have been learning how to develop our faith in the midst of adversity or difficult circumstances. Paul made the statement in the following scriptures that he had learned the secret or recipe of how to be happy regardless of circumstances, it was something he was looking for and pursuing and by meditating, the Holy Spirit had brought revelation to him.

Examples of David and Elijah shows the different ways that they had this revelation given to them. David was able to get back what had been taken from him as talked about in 1 Samuel chapter 30. Elijah's story is found in the book of 1 Kings.

Gods plan for restoration for us goes beyond anything that we can imagine. Gods plan is an abundance, regardless of what has happened to us. If we continue to pursue God we will have a favorable outcome.

Discouragement means to refuse or forbid, the enemy will try his best to bring a seed of discouragement to us, our hearts and emotions being effected, if we yield to this seed it will begin to grow and produce a fruit in our lives that is never good. It always leads to hopelessness and wanting us to give up. Discouragement means to break one down, to make one of no effect and always gets us to look at circumstances which we are unable to see beyond. It means to neutralize, like putting our car in neutral, making us unable to go anyplace, we have all the power available to us but we aren't moving, this is exactly what the enemy wants us to do, as Gods people we have access to all the power that God has and His grace and mercy, but if we put ourselves in neutral, we are not going anyplace and sometimes we may even coast backwards. Discouragement can also mean to give up our confidence and become depressed and disheartened. If we become depressed and don't take care of, it can lead to oppression, which can lead to possession. Discouragement gets us to look at the problem and not the answer.

Phil 4:12 "I know how to be abased *and* live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty *and* live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency *and* enough to spare or going without *and* being in want." AMP

Phil 4:12 "I'm glad in God, far happier than you would ever guess—happy that you're again showing such strong concern for me. Not that you ever quit praying and thinking about me. You just had no chance to show it. Actually, I don't have a sense of needing anything personally. I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. I don't mean that your help didn't mean a lot to me—it did. It was a beautiful thing that you came alongside me in my troubles." MESSAGE

This teaching is what God wants to do for us in the time of discouragement if there is a seed that has grown up. He is not going to forsake us, but will continue to work with us.

Elijah goes through a process of time of getting turned around, where he is focused back on God. The story is told of how Israel has gone downhill, worshiping Baal and bowing down to him, Elijah has begin to feel that he is the only one serving God, this is how his discouragement began, but God shows him that there are others who are serving Him. Elijah begins to challenge the priests of Baal regarding the true God. Anytime in the Old Testament that God seemed to be pleased was when fire came down from heaven, so this is the challenge that Elijah had given the prophets of Baal.

1 Kings 18:25-38 "And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. 26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. 27 And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. 28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. 29 And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. 30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. 31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: 32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. 33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. 34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. 35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. 36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. 37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench." KJV

After God had sent fire down from heaven and burned up everything, the people realized that God was responsible for the fire and they began to worship Him. Elijah took all the prophets of Baal and had them beheaded, then he told Ahab that he needed to prepare to leave because it was going to rain, it hadn't rained for three and a half years. The king left in his chariot and Elijah outran him. But Elijah began to let discouragement in his thoughts and he began to fear what Jezebel had said that she would do to him. He began to form pictures in his mind or imagination, (imagination is the ability to form pictures in your mind of things that are not present to your senses). Elijah saw this and he began to run, even though there had been three miracles that had just happened.

1 Kings 19:1-9 "And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. 3 And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. 5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. 6 And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. 7 And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. 8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. 9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the

word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? 10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. 11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: 12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice." KJV

Elijah had given up and was fearful; this is the difference between him and David. David didn't give up, he was ready to pursue the enemy, get back everything that had been taken from him. Elijah just quit, he wanted to die. The devil had used a woman to get him to throw his faith away. Jezebel was a wicked woman and Elijah could see in his imagination, her doing what she had said she would. But God did not give up on Elijah, he had a divine visitation from God in the time that he wanted to give up. Davids destiny was to be king and he knew that, he never gave up and the Lord continued to bless him.

Isaiah 60:1 "Arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you—rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!" AMP

Circumstances is like putting us in a prison, but the word tells us to rise up. This is what God wants to do for us, when we think that we want to die or checkout, when discouragement becomes so great, when everything is hopeless. There is a greater life that God has for us, He wants us to rise up and experience that life and not quit.

In the midst of times like this for us, God will speak to us and provide for our needs. We will need a greater strength to finish our course, being strong in the Lord and the power of His might. God wants to come in our lives in order that He can empower us with His ability and strength, to enable us to do what we are not capable of doing in our own strength, to stay on course in order to fulfill our destiny. Regardless of what has happened to us in life, God is not done with us. God wants people to know when they look at us, that God is the one who has blessed us and we are not the ones who have done it. God sees beyond the now, He always sees the future, the enemy would like for us to get into discouragement and take our eyes off what God is doing for us, aborting our destiny.

How will we respond to the word or visitation from God in the time of discouragement? We can't let people try to discourage us, telling us that God is through with us, we must be in contact with people who will encourage us, build us up to what God is doing for us. It takes a lot of faith and it takes courage to do that. God will come to us in a still small voice like He did to Elijah.

1 Kings 19:13-20 "And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? 14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. 15 And the Lord said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. 17 And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. 18 Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal,

and every mouth which hath not kissed him. 19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. 20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?" KJV

The Lord spoke to Elijah, encouraged him and began to minister to him, took care of his needs and then told him about those people who had continued to serve Him, even though Elijah knew nothing about them. God then told Elijah where he was to go, what his job would be regarding the anointing of two kings and Elisha who was to be a prophet. Elisha would later be the prophet which would take Elijah's place. Elijah would continue as prophet for many more years, God was not done with him yet.

Discouragement comes to every generation. It came with Elijah and will come to us. In the midst of discouragement you can expect a fresh anointing coming out of discouragement. If you don't understand the anointing, it is the presence of God or a gifting of God, the power of God. We can expect resurrection power afresh working in our lives, bringing us out, rising to a new life. This is what God wants to do for us in the time of discouragement. There was a song written several years ago which said: "sometimes we are discouraged, nothing seems to work out right, it is another opportunity to quit, but rest in the Lord, wait patiently and He will see you through, trust in Him, unto His word submit, He can turn it around for your good, just like He said He would, cast not away your confidence, trust him like you should and He will turn it around for your good."

Isaiah 60:1 "Arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you—rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!"
AMP

Arise to resurrection, the devil can't hold you down in discouragement, our God is greater than the power of the enemy, our God is greater than what people say about you negatively. He is not done with you, take a step of faith into your future, seeing what His plans are for you and when you see you can run with the vision, the purpose that God has placed in your heart that you are to fulfill. It is challenging to go someplace that we can't see, but God can take the blinders off of us.

"So when you are discouraged and all seems to be lost, go to the house of the Lord, worship and seek Him, He will surely hear your cry and His voice you will hear, so rejoice in Him, for you will recover all and you will see nothing is lost after all." (Received this word after ministering on David earlier in the week)

Word received this morning:

"Some have aborted their destiny and purpose by giving up to soon, but the Lord says that He is not done yet, and your eyes shall see and behold My glory, for My plan you see, is not just for you to be surrounded and be overcome in darkness, but My glory when you begin to look will cause the darkness to flee and you will rise to a new life and as you rise to a new life and focus on Me, saith the Lord, you will see My path and My way to walk there in and as you walk in My path not only My glory will you behold and My abundant provision you shall walk in also, others will see and look upon you in utter amazement, saying is this the woman or man that seemed to lay down and quit? But they forgot to factor in that Gods presence and anointing was resting on you, empowering you and giving you the ability to finish your race and your destiny here on the earth, in Jesus name."