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Discouragement #3
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

There are many types of discouragement and hopelessness and we have learned that they always come from the adversary, Jesus never brings discouragement to us, because discouragement always has a downward progression, leading you to hopelessness, depression and oppression where an evil spirit could come in, causing you to just want to quit and give up.

Joshua 1:6-8 "Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." KJV

The above scriptures were God preparing Joshua to take over the leadership of the children of Israel from Moses, it is emphasized that he be of good courage and that he meditate the word. God was giving Joshua a word for the season of his life, God is able to see ahead and know what is involved, and as we follow the Lord we will have the ability to know what is ahead because the Holy Spirit will reveal it to us, but we also know the character of the adversary and he is going to resist us from receiving. If we are going to inherit what God has promised us, there is going to be the opportunity to become discouraged, the promise is out in front of us and many times there are distractions which the enemy will throw up causing us to get off course, when we begin to focus on the impossibilities or the negative circumstances they will forbid us from inheriting what God has promised us. But Gods word is true and He has never changed His mind and it is His plan and will for us to fulfill His destiny that He has for us in this earth before we make the transition from earth to heaven. Greater is He that is in us and we shall overcome.

As we begin to think about things on the inside of us and in our mind and in our thought life, we need to begin to frame a picture or image on the inside, the imagination is the power that has the ability to frame pictures in the mind of things that are not present to the senses. Frame a picture on the inside that you will be able to overcome any roadblock that the enemy has set before you, for anything that you may have done, for any mistake that you may have made, but in order to frame that picture, you must be strong and courageous.

There are principles or keys that you can do when you have opportunity to be discouraged, how to resist the enemy when he tries to take the seed of discouragement and plant it in the soil of our heart or mind or will or emotions and it grows up and begins to produce fruit. These principles must be in our heart, things that we apply from receiving biblical instruction that will cause us to overcome, these principles include prayer and attitudes.

The following scriptures tell of the woman who went before a judge asking to be avenged and helped, but the unjust judge who cared little about anyone, except himself, didn't fear God had at first tried to put her off and ignore her, but she continued to appear before him and make her request known. He finally did what she asked, afraid that she would, because of her persistence in asking, cause harm to him.

Luke 18:8 "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" KJV

Luke 18:8 "I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?" NLT

Luke 18:8 "Then the Master said, "Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?" MESSAGE

Luke 18:3,5 "And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, Protect *and* defend *and* give me justice against my adversary. 5-Yet because this widow continues to bother me, I will defend *and* protect *and* avenge her, lest she give me intolerable annoyance *and* wear me out by her continual coming *or* at the last she come and rail on me *or* assault me *or* strangle me." AMP

Luke 18:1-5 "Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up). 2 He said, In a certain city there was a judge who neither revered *and* feared God nor respected *or* considered man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, Protect *and* defend *and* give me justice against my adversary. 4 And for a time he would not; but later he said to himself, Though I have neither reverence *or* fear for God nor respect *or* consideration for man, 5 Yet because this widow continues to bother me, I will defend *and* protect *and* avenge her, lest she give me intolerable annoyance *and* wear me out by her continual coming *or* at the last she come and rail on me *or* assault me *or* strangle me. 6 Then the Lord said, Listen to what the unjust judge says! 7 And will not [our just] God defend *and* protect *and* avenge His elect (His chosen ones), who cry to Him day and night? Will He defer them *and* delay help on their behalf? 8 I tell you, He will defend *and* protect *and* avenge them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth?" AMP

Jesus was teaching the disciples of a person that did not give up in the face of opposition, but had persistent faith, apparently she was a woman of prayer. This woman was not begging, was not asking in hope, she was in the arena of faith, she was not in fear. Fear produces and spawns doubt and unbelief and failure. Faith produces a strong belief in what God has promised, there is no way it will not come to pass. It produces hope, trust in what God has said He would do. Faith will trouble the adversary. The devil cannot handle us if we are staying in faith. Sometimes when we come to God, the enemy opposes us, we think that God hasn't heard us, but God is a just God, faith moves God not a need.

He is teaching that men should always pray, not giving up because of what the enemy has thrown in their way. Prayer is one of the keys to resisting that seed the devil has tried to plant in our heart and causing us to give up. A life of prayer is important to be able to resist discouragement and maintain a persistent faith in the face of adversity. Having a life of prayer is talking about a relationship with God, being able to maintain a life style of prayer, making us ready for everything that may come our way. The devil or circumstances may arise, but we are not affected by them. When discouragement begins to come our way, if the life of prayer has been lost, start again, God is able to make it up and cause us to redeem the time.

Heb 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." KJV

Rom 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." KJV

God is speaking to Abraham reminding him of the promise, not to be discouraged that the promise had not been fulfilled yet. Discouragement always causes us to look at the adversity or the negative circumstances and never causes us to look at the answer, it is intended for us to get our eyes off of the goal, off of Jesus.

Gen 15:1 "After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." KJV

Gen 15:1 "After these things, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram, I am your Shield, your abundant *compensation, and your reward shall be exceedingly great." AMP

*compensation means the effects of variation or error to make up for the loss of the weakness of another

When we find ourselves in the midst of discouragement, that seems to have fastened or attached itself to us and we are unable to shake it and we begin to think negative thoughts, we must remember that God is bigger and will enable us to make it, if we will just keep walking by faith.

2 Cor 4:16-18 "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." KJV

2 Cor 4:16-18 "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. 17 For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing *and* producing *and* achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!], 18 Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless *and* everlasting." AMP

Paul is speaking about the difficulty that they had been going through, but their inner man was being renewed day by day as a result of prayer. He was saying this while nothing was going right, don't become discouraged, it is only a light affliction and will not last, it is preparing us for the future to come. The inner man stays renewed continually through a life of prayer.

The enemy wants the body of Christ to be discouraged because he does not want them encroaching on his kingdom. Discouragement always causes us to look at the impossibilities, but Paul says that is not what he is looking at, his eyes are on the eternal things, Paul knew that the problems were subject to change but that he was going to continue to stay in the arena of faith.

*discouragement means to refuse or forbid and to neutralize causing us to not be able to go forward

Jude 20 "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost," KJV

There is power praying in the Holy Spirit, the outward man is perishing but the inner man is being renewed, building up and getting bigger. Any discouragement that we may be experiencing now is preparing us for the future and better things to come. Don't yield to discouragement.

Isaiah 57:10 "Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved." KJV

Don't begin to say there is no hope, don't talk about the difficult things because we have found life in Jesus, God has not changed. Another principle for having success with discouragement is having a right or good attitude.

Psalms 77:3 "I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah." KJV

David said that he would have fainted had he not remembered the Lord.

1 Cor 10:1 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;" KJV

Paul referred to the children of Israel dying in the wilderness not entering into the Promised Land because of their complaining and bad attitudes. They were destroyed by the destroyer in the wilderness. If we are whining or murmuring we have yielded to discouragement.

1 Thess 5:16-18 "Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 **In every thing give thanks:** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." KJV

Paul makes the statement that we should have joy in the midst of adversity, and that we should be giving thanks in everything, he did not say that we should be giving thanks for everything, but **in everything**. We are not to give thanks for what the enemy is doing, focusing on what he is doing, but we give thanks in everything, this is the will, plan and purpose of God in Christ Jesus concerning us. Whatever comes along, giving thanks will help us to not allow that seed of discouragement take root in our lives. We must have and maintain an attitude of thanksgiving in everything. Don't allow difficulties to override what God is saying to us, there may be different conflicts in our lives, but we are to give thanks in every adversity, because of that man on the inside. There should be continual joy in our lives.

In the 16th chapter of Acts we read about Paul and Silas being in prison for preaching the good news, they have been beaten, put in stocks and at the midnight hour they were praising God not for their situation but because they knew God would deliver and care for them and the prisoners heard them. There was an earthquake which broke the chains and released them, they preached and the jailer and his whole household were saved.

We must develop an attitude of thanksgiving in everything, if we start just looking at circumstances, the devil will push our button and every time we get ready to have victory he will cause us to be upset and turn negative, but when we are founded on the rock of Jesus Christ and the rock of revelation knowledge, the devil is no match for us. When we keep praising God, we know there is victory around the corner. Praising God in the midst of adversity is a learned virtue or principle, it is a choice that we make and how we respond is our choice.

James 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh *patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." KJV

Faith and patience are the power twins. Biblical patience is always associated with faith and faith is always associated with biblical patience. Some believers have the concept that patience is a trait that means the one having patience is someone that can be taken advantage of or be a pushover. What happens when we have persistent faith, what will be the outcome? We will be complete we will not have a want because we didn't give up. We will be like the woman who had persistence with the ungodly judge. Jesus is looking for that kind of faith when He comes back to earth.

*patience means a quality that does not surrender to circumstance or give up under trial and is always associated with hope, it is the opposite of despondency or discouragement

God wants us to have persistent faith, not yielding to discouragement, not giving up. God is for us, He is not against us. The adversity or situations that are coming in our lives are not from God but from our enemy, the devil. We can begin to give thanksgiving in the midst of them and the thanksgiving and praise will open the doors from God to come in and rest upon us, "you will begin to see victory on the other side and the eyes of your understanding will be opened and we will see of the greater entirety of the plan that God has for you here in this earth, and you will see the way to pursue and walk in it, saith the Lord." It is one way to know and it is another way to know how to walk in it. God will sustain us. Stay focused looking unto Jesus.

God is wanting to show us the way to walk therein, the scales and blinders will come off of our eyes and He will show us the way to walk, for victory is yours, I planned it and I will show you how to walk therein. It takes courage to be a doer of the word, begin to praise the Lord, it takes courage.