



Dealing with Discouragement

“The feeling of despair in the face of obstacles, disheartenment”

¹⁶ Why does the Devil use **discouragement** as a weapon? Because it often works. Even a person who has endured outright opposition and persecution may fall prey to **discouragement**

*** w90 12/15 p. 19 par. 16 Encourage One Another As the Day Draws Near ***

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

verbs 24:10) ¹⁰ Have you shown yourself **discouraged** in the day of distress? Your power will be scanty. . .

"Then the peoples around them set out to **discourage** the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building." - Ezra 4:4

"Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or **discouraged**." - 1 Chronicles 22:13

"But O my soul, don't be **discouraged**. Don't be upset. Expect God to act!"

---Psalm 42:11 (The Living Bible)

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### **EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL SERVANTS WHO HAD REASONS TO BE DISCOURAGED:**

\***Hannah** - "A woman hard pressed in spirit I am—1 Samuel 1:15, 16.

\***Elijah** - (1 Kings 19:3 And he became afraid. . . .

\***Asaph** - (Psalm 73:16 . . .It was a trouble in my eyes,

\***Job** -(Job 14:13 That you would keep me secret until your anger turns back, That you would set a time limit for me and remember me!

\***Paul** - (Romans 7:19) . . .For the good that I wish I do not do. . .

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OBSERVATION: One cannot miss the obvious that the word "discourage, discouragement" has in its center the word "**courage**". Yet the emotional experience felt by many...even loyal and faithful servants past and present....seems to result more from a lack of courage. In fact by definition, discouragement is "to deprive of

courage...making less confident or hopeful, dishearten". Sometime the challenges and seeming hopelessness of a situation may create a negativity resulting in despair, lack of initiative and focus. The excellent overviews and suggestions presented in the following articles very nicely put things in perspective, allowing for down times and temporary set-backs....but with a spiritual re-focusing, reviving ourselves to face forward...and overcome momentary discouragements.



QUOTES AND SHORT TRUTHS:

Discouragement is a mental disease. It is one of the most common afflictions of mankind.-- Unknown

You can tell how big a man is by observing how much it takes to **discourage** him.--Unknown

Discouragement serves no possible purpose; it is simply the despair of wounded self-love. -- Fenelon

Pay as little attention to **discouragement** as possible. Plow ahead as a steamer does, rough or smooth, rain or shine to carry your cargo and make your port is the point.--M.D. Babcock

Don't be **discouraged**. It is often the last key in the bunch that opens the lock.— Stans



THESE SMALL CANDLES (A tombstone inscription in Britain)

"In moments of **discouragement**, defeat, or even despair, there are always certain things to cling to. Little things usually: remembered laughter,

the face of a sleeping child, a tree in the wind—in fact, any reminder of something deeply felt or dearly loved. No man is so poor as not to have

many of these small candles. When they are lighted, darkness goes away—and a touch of wonder remains."

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### **ILLUSTRATIONS:**

#### ***Satan's Main Tool---Discouragement***

There's an old fable that says the Devil once held a sale and offered all the tools of his trade to anyone who would pay their price. They were spread out on the table and each one labeled. Hatred, malice, envy, despair, sickness, sensuality -- all the weapons that everyone knows so well. But off to one side lay a harmless looking wood-shaped instrument marked "**discouragement**." It was old and worn looking but it was priced far above all the rest. When asked the reason why, the Devil replied, "Because I can use this one so much more easily than the others. No one knows that it belongs to me, so with it I can open doors that are tightly bolted against the others. Once I get inside I can use any tool that suits me best."

See: Eph 6:11; 1 Pet 5:8

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LURES OF SATAN THAT CAN ENTRAP YOU!

Satan is like a fisherman. A good trout fisherman has an expert knowledge of the fish he wants to catch. By looking at the water flow and depth, considering the temperature and time of the day, he can mimic the types of insects landing on or laying eggs on the water.

He watches the fish rise and considers the placement of his line. The fly lands softly on the water, a few soft tugs on the line has it skim across the surface, and wham! it is taken by the fish.

Satan is a master of deception and lures. He does not have a "catch and release" policy. A lure he uses well and which can work anywhere is **discouragement** when others disappoint us.

David felt very eaten up inside when others hurt him: "I have grown weary with my sighing; all night long I make my couch swim; with my tears I make my own divan overflow. From vexation my eye has become weak, it has grown old because of all those showing hostility to me. . . . Jehovah will certainly hear the sound of my weeping." -- Psalm 6:6-9.

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### TEST OF THE HEART

"It is easy enough to be pleasant,  
When life flows by like a song.  
But the one worthwhile is one who will smile,  
When everything goes dead wrong.  
For the test of the heart is trouble,  
And it always comes with the years,  
And the smile that is worth the praises of earth  
Is the one that shines through the tears."

-Ella Wheeler Wilcox

### PUBLICATION REFERENCES:

**\*\*\* w75 8/15 p. 505 COPING WITH DISCOURAGEMENT**

**\*\*\* w01 2/1 p. 20 You Can Cope With Discouragement! \*\*\***

**\*\*\* g75 2/22 3 How to Defeat Discouragement \*\*\***

**\*\*\* w99 11/15 29 What Can Be Done About Discouragement? \*\*\***

**\*\*\* w04 9/1 p. 32 How to Cope With Discouragement \*\*\***