

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

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

**Truths Concerning This Issue**

- Discouragement is the #1 enemy of our success.
- Our perspective is what either produces discouragement or builds faith.
- Overcoming faith or defeated discouragement are both products of our perspective and how we think.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV)**

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ....

**Understanding the nature and importance of prophetic thinking**

- 30% of the Bible is prophecy and most of it relates to the end-times we are currently living in.
- The Holy Spirit has been sent to comfort, equip and encourage every believer through personal prophetic ministry.

**John 16:13 (NKJV)**

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

- Prophecy is the only spiritual gift listed in every place where spiritual gifts are listed.
- We are commanded to seek the prophetic gift above the other spiritual gifts and not to despise prophetic utterances.

**1 Corinthians 14:1-5 (NKJV)**

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification."

**1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (NKJV)**

"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good."

- The stated purpose of prophecy is to encourage.

**1 Corinthians 14:3-4 (NKJV)**

“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”

- Prophecy equips us for spiritual warfare against attacks of fear, doubt, discouragement, etc.

**1 Timothy 1:18 (NKJV)**

“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare...”

**Three Principles of Prophetic Thinking**

- Don't be controlled by what you see – walk by faith!

**2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)**

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

**2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)**

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

- Find a promise or prophecy that matches your problem and focus on it – not the problem!

**2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)**

“For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him amen, to the glory of God through us.”

**Psalms 16:10-11 (NKJV)**

“For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

- Embrace the gift of prophecy on every level and let it encourage you.
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