

OVERCOMING THE ATTACKS OF SATAN
PASTOR'S BIBLE HOUR – July 1, 2007
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Isa 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Heb 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

Heb 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Act 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

1. If somehow Satan can destroy our faith and confidence in God, he has destroyed you lifeline to eternal life.

DISCOURAGEMENT

1. Discouragement is one of Satan's most effective tools form his tool chest of destruction against Christians.
2. **Discouragement means:** "to deprive of confidence, hope, or spirit, dishearten; daunt."

THREE STAGES OF DISCOURAGEMENT:

1. **Mild:** Minor problems or pressures which affect our emotions.
2. **Major:** Major problems or pressures which affect our spirits so that others notice.
3. **Disabling:** Overwhelming problems or pressures which drain us of our spiritual, mental, emotional and physical strength. Our

hearts melt within us, and we have no desire, energy, or ability to go on.

THE CAUSE OF DISCOURAGEMENT

1. **At the base of every discouragement is a lie from Satan,** Fear, unbelief, bitterness, self-pity, condemnation or God does not love me. All of the above are based on Satan's lies.

ROOT CAUSE OF DISCOURAGEMENT

1. **We have believed Satan's lie and he has persuaded his report is true.**
2. **We have put down the shield of faith:**

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

BIBLE EXAMPLES

1. **David at Ziklag: (1 Samuel 30:1-8)**

1Sa 30:3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, *it was* burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

1Sa 30:6 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.

1Sa 30:8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.

2. **Elijah:** (1 Kings 19:1-9; 14-15)

1Ki 19:1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

1Ki 19:2 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.

1Ki 19:3 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.

1Ki 19:4 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.

EVERYONE FACES DISCOURAGEMENT

1. When we let our fears, what other people think about us, when we start letting our emotions run wild. And when we begin to feel sorry for ourselves and doubt that even God does not cares for us anymore.

THE BENEFIT OF DISCOURAGEMENT

1. **It confirms our need for God:** Jesus said “for without me you can do nothing.”
2. **When we are discouraged, it destroys our delight in temporal things.**

2Co 4:18 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.

1Ti 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Luk 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

3. **It will destroy our confidence in human effort:**

Hab 3:17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls:

Hab 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Hab 3:19 The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

4. **God has ordained that through our weakness, His strength is made perfect:** (2 Cor 12:9-10)

2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

FIVE STEPS TO CONQUER DISCOURAGEMENT

1. **Remove All Guilt:** Guilt is removed by repentance and confession.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- a. Satan will try to use past failures to keep us from removing all guilt and dealing with the discouragement that follows.
- b. King David faced difficult times in dealing with his own son Absalom. Because of his own past failures with Bathsheba, it was difficult for David to discipline his son Absalom.

c. We cannot let past failures, hold our future captive.

2. **Take up the Shield of Faith:**

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- a. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).
- b. The Bible warns us not to have an evil heart of unbelief. (Heb 3:12).
- c. Overcoming Faith says: “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him (Job 13:10).

3. **How do I take up the “Shield of Faith?”**

- a. By Quoting the Word of God, Jesus used the spoken Word to defeat Satan. A scripture a day will blow the devil away.

2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

b. **Satan’s Lies verse God’s Truth:**

Lie: God has left me. **Truth:** “I will never leave thee.”

Lie: No good will come from this. **Truth:** “All things work together for the good.”

Lie: People hurt me. **Truth:** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood.

Lie: God is punishing me. **Truth:** “Whom the Lord Loveth..” (Heb 12:6-11).

Lie: I am weak **Truth:** My strength is made perfect in weakness..” (2 Cor. 12:9).

4. **Encourage Your Heart in the Lord:**

- a. David encouraged himself in the Lord (1 Sam. 30:6).

- b. Speaking to yourselves in psalms and..." (Eph 5:19).
- c. "I will bless the Lord at all times, His ..." (Psalms 34:1).
- d. Meditate on God's Truth day and night. (Psalms 1:1-2).

Psa 1:1 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psa 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

5. **Establish a place to be alone with God:**

- a. We need to establish a "Bethel" for personal times to be alone with the Lord.

Gen 32:24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

Gen 35:1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.

Luk 5:16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Luk 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.