



Dealing With Discouragement



Throughout our individual lifetimes we will be faced with consistently having our expectations dashed. Discouragement is a fact of life this side of heaven. So what should the believer in Yeshua/Jesus do with discouragement. First let's stop and look at the word; discouragement. The word discourage has French origins. Hailing from the word *descourager* the root "des" means away and "courager" from the heart. Faith is of the heart or spirit of man. (*with the heart man believes...Romans 10:10*)

The enemy is constantly working on our hearts. He works to get us hard hearted so that we can't produce the fruits of the spirit which are born of the heart. I would say that just about 100% of the discouragement I have suffered has come from having my expectations of other humans and of myself fall way short. I am seeing a pattern in my own life that helps me understand and also stand against discouragement. God never disappoints me, but humans (including myself) constantly disappoint. None of us can measure up to the standard of perfection. Why we allow discouragement to take root in our hearts is silly when we see just how useless it is to expect perfection of anyone draped in skin.

Ok, so we see the problem, but what about the answer? The answer is to always keep our eyes on God. That seems too simplistic an answer, but the easier the answer the more we seem to ignore it. We want complicated. We think we're so complicated and that the situation is complicated that it must require a complicated answer. No. The simplicity of Christ (the Anointed One and his Anointing) escapes so many that hell is paved with the victims who choose to overcomplicate life.

He will keep us in perfect peace when we keep our minds stayed on HIM. We do NOT wrestle with flesh and blood. Or do we? Most of us spend our waking moments wrestling with one another. We wrestle with spouses, with children, with friends, and with family. Then to make matters more complicated we wrestle with enemies. If you look at the groups I have listed that we choose to wrestle with, all have flesh. That means we are wrestling with flesh and blood and not seeing who is behind all the strife and envy on the planet. Hasatan has no body of his own, so he's working overtime to get that one person who will knowingly submit to him. Humans are easily duped when they don't know the Lord and aren't filled with the Holy Spirit. They perpetually eat from the tree of knowledge of both good and evil and therefore are in the adversary's clutches. He has taken them captive at his will and they are blind to it. Even those of us who believe and trust in the Lord occasionally fall for his devices.

My advice is to awake to righteousness (in Christ) and sin not, but believe only. Keep your eyes on God and He'll keep discouragement away!

Prayer requests:

- Anita Villa: electric power chair
- Cars for: Adkins, M. Brown
- Jeff for direction for new year.

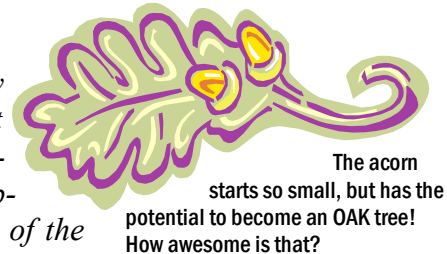
Praise Reports:

- Adkins, new roof
- Welder for Jeff

Working Your Way To Heaven?

Romans 10

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.



There is a work that we are supposed to do as believers. I'm giving you a big hint in that last sentence and it's this. BELIEVE! The apostle Paul wanted his people, the Israelites to be saved. He wanted it so bad he even suggested he go to hell so that they be saved. Sorry Paul, but we all know that job was taken. Our Lord paid the eternal price for every sin and every sinner. The sins of all mankind were placed on him and judged in him. He was completely rejected by God the Creator so that you and I wouldn't be rejected and judged! That's the most exciting news I can think of. For some reason people down through the ages have felt the need to work their way to heaven. Now mind you they don't come right out and say as much, but they push the commandments, the law and even the New Testament letters in the faces of mankind as the "Way" to heaven. Our ONLY way to heaven is believing in the finished work of Jesus Christ (Yeshua Hamashiach). We simply can't add a single thing or take away a single thing to make his accomplishment any better or less than enough.

It all boils down to pride; pure and simple. When we attempt to make excuses and establish our own righteousness, we are falling for the oldest sin in existence. It was the enemy who wanted to make himself like the most High God. It was the enemy who wanted to ascend above the throne of God. He had the "me, myself and I" thing going long before a single human had drawn the first breath in the garden.

Look at your motives. Take the time to see if you're seriously thinking you have to "have no other gods before you". Have you had the thought, "I should keep the Sabbath" and then things would be better? How about, "I need to quit doing this or that and I would feel better and God would be happier with me"? It's just that easy to be tricked into working rather than resting. We are workaholics rather than resting in the work of believing in the completed work of the Lord. He didn't say, "It is finished" like a certain rabbit says, "That's all folks". He really meant, "Hey ya'll the Sabbath rest has begun because I've pleased God and all the work is done!"

The Lord left us with just a few words and "works" to be done. First he told us, "These signs will follow those who BELIEVE in my name...". All we're supposed to be doing is believing, preaching, proclaiming, and then casting out the devil. We can lay hands on sick folks, because when you believe that Yeshua did all the work of destroying the enemy's work, the devil can't stay around anymore! You aren't afraid to touch lepers because leprosy was put on the Lord! It can't stay on the sick guy and can't get on you! Devils were completely defeated when the Lord was freed from hell so they can't stay around!

I'm not saying you're going to get to be lazy if you believe in the Lord. There are close to 7 billion people on planet earth so there's enough believing, proclaiming and healing to keep you busy until the Lord returns. I'm just telling you (and myself) that any work aside from believing in Jesus and his work is a pure D waste of time! Fear not and BELIEVE only! Oh, Read Mark 16 and then get busy resting in the Lord!

More Than Meets the Eye

The word of God is more than just words on parchment or paper. The word of God is a living breathing person. The Lord was words spoken from the mouth of the Creator. He became flesh and lived among humans. God took spirit words and made them natural or material substance.

When we read the written word we see bits and pieces of a much bigger “picture”. The written word of God is what brought about the living word, because God’s words are spirit and they are life.

The goal for us today is to become intimate with the living word, the Lord Jesus Christ (Yahowshua Hamashiach). Intimacy goes beyond just a “Hey God give me this and give me that”. Intimacy is just like a body reacting to its head and the signals the head is sending to the body. This sort of intimacy can be likened to a chemical and electrical signaling between a natural head and body. The head “wants” something, sends signals both chemically and electrically to the body and the body responds. A body that doesn’t respond to the signals its head is sending is either paralyzed or spastic. A body that “does its own thing” is not a healthy body!

As we take time to fast, study the written word and pray in the spirit we become more and more “sensitive” to the head’s (Yeshua/Jesus’) wants. He has been given all authority in heaven and earth. Matthew 28:18 He was given the intercessory place and is so even now. If we break down the word intercede and look into its etymology we’ll learn that in Latin “*intercedere*” is to **go between**.

Hebrews 7: 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

The Lord did everything he was ever going to do when he died on the cross. At that point he became our intercessor. He became our “go between”. The adversary isn’t standing in the presence of God accusing us. He was cast to the earth a LONG time ago. We have a wrong idea of what the Lord is doing in heaven. He is seated in heavenly places, but he isn’t working. He finished his work. He was quickened and made alive and that is the *living* he does that causes him to BE our intercessor. He isn’t doing anything but resting in the Sabbath waiting for the Father to send him back to earth.

As the head of the BODY of Christ or the Body which contains the Holy Spirit or *christ (the anointing)* the Lord is saving or cleaning our souls out. “Beloved I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 2”. We must have the “mind of Christ” in order to walk like sons of God. If we have thinking based on ANYTHING other than what God the Father is saying, our souls are NOT prospering and we will neither be healthy nor will we prosper in any way shape or form.

As we allow the word to enter into our hearts and we understand what God is saying, we get light. The written words are quickened and quickening. They are seeds, they are water and they are light. They become MORE than just mere words on a page, but become living, breathing flesh. Just like the word was made flesh and dwelt among us, so will the word be fleshed out in us.



Can't see the trees for the forest.



...and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself... Gen1:11