

The Christian and Discouragement

Those of us who have formed close bonds with spouses, brethren and even friends know, merely from the expression on one's face, what they are going through at a given time. A great big smile will tell us that things are good and they are happy. A frown shows concern. We can likewise read "body language", such as drooped shoulders, head hanging low, and even tears and realize that they are discouraged.

We do not have the market cornered on discouragement in this culture and at this time. It might surprise us that many Bible characters experienced the same "low times" in life. Elijah is a classic example of this as recorded in 1 Kings 19. In that context he was fleeing from Jezebel, as she had threatened his life. As great a prophet as he was, he faced discouragement.

The point upon which we must focus today is not THAT we will face such times; rather, we must concern ourselves as to how we will deal with such times and cast aside that feeling of discouragement. This will be done in various ways to be discussed this morning. Suffice it to say at this point that we must look to God, look to the bigger picture and realize that we are not alone to overcome discouragement. There are numerous "quips" that can be read that may seem trite during such times. If we look closely at the scriptures, many of them are far from trite as they may well be based on Scriptural concepts. Let us analyze this a little deeper together this morning.

Outline: The Christian and Discouragement

1. Get your mind off your problems by helping others (1 Kgs. 19:4, 15-21; Mt. 10:39).
2. In every cloud, there is a silver lining (Phil. 1:12; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)
3. Realize your personal value (Mt. 10:31; 25:25)
4. Remember that you are never alone (1 Pet. 3:12-14; Mt. 28:20).
5. Remember that these things are temporary (Psa. 30:1-5).
6. Pray (Phil. 4:6-7; James 5:16)

P.M. Sermon: "Nahum"

Nahum

1. Introduction

- A. Background
- B. Author
- C. Recipients
- D. Ho-hum, Nahum, here we go again!

2. Lessons Learned -- Several things revealed about the nature of God:

- A. What is known about the “covenant God” is revealed only through His word (Rom. 1:20-21; Nah. 1:2-7).
- B. Much is revealed about God in these three short chapters.
 - 1. He is a jealous God (1:2-3)
 - 2. There is a limit to His patience 91:12-15; 3:1-7; 2 Pet. 3:9)
 - 3. God has a dual nature – wrath and blessing – Rom. 1:22; Psa. 100:5; Rom. 5:8).
- C. Power must be seen in God rather than national might (Prov. 16:18; 1 Cor. 10:12; 2 Cor. 4:7)
- D. Apostasy/decline is but one generation away (Deut. 4:1-9; 6:6-9)