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**Topic: Defeating Discouragement**

*Genesis 40:23, The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.*

**A few of Josephs Character Traits:**

1. He was responsible
  2. He remained faithful to God
  3. He was a man of integrity
  4. He had deep perseverance
- Joseph seemed like the most unlikely person to feel discouraged but he had to face it.
  - Joseph is a story that challenges us with the importance of remaining faithful to God even when we are highly discouraged.

**Voices of Discouragement**

- Voices can either LIFT YOU UP or drag you down.
- Voices of encouragement can change the climate of any situation.
- We desire that City Church would be a encouraging house for all!

*2 Corinthians 7:5-6, When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus.*

### **Overcoming Discouragement**

#### **1. When you are discouraged, keep doing your job.**

*1 Corinthians 15:58, Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

#### **2. When you are discouraged, look for others to encourage.**

- Encourage other's daily.
  - *Hebrews 3:13, But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*
- Encourage yourself in the Lord.
  - *1 Samuel 30:6, ... David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.*
  - No success will ever take away the negative voices in our mind.

#### **3. When you are discouraged, put your trust completely in God.**

*Romans 1:10-12, I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.*

**The real test of Christian commitment:** Will you be faithful to God when life does not seem to be making sense and you are highly discouraged?

*Accept what you can't change—Act on what you can change.*

*2 Corinthians 4:8-9, We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*