

SATAN'S WEAPON DISCOURAGEMENT

Discouragement is Satan's weapon, but
encouragement is God's strategy.”

1 Samuel 30:1–4

- God allows both trials and assaults from the enemy into our lives that feel absolutely overwhelming.
- It's important for us to just acknowledge this so that when these horrible seasons of pain enter our lives, we won't think that something strange is happening to us.
- Life can be intensely painful at times, and this is certainly what we see here in David's life.
- The author describes how traumatic this experience was in verse four where we learn that "...David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep."

David is not only a victim of his Amalekite enemies, but he also becomes the scapegoat for this disaster, and he hears his loyal comrades in arms talk of killing him.

The author wants us to see that, for David in particular, this attack is on two fronts and must have felt absolutely overwhelming.

If you haven't experienced this, you almost certainly will not escape this life without going through this, perhaps many times.

The point for us from the text is that—like David, we are not exempt from these trials and the emotional collapse that accompanies them.

- **Discouragement Is Satan's Silent Assassin**

- Discouragement rarely shows up loud — it creeps in quietly.

- It drains confidence, weakens faith, and blinds us to what God is doing.

- Satan uses discouragement because it doesn't require a crisis — just a whisper.

- **1 Peter 5:8**

- Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- Satan doesn't need to destroy you if he can discourage you.
- A discouraged believer stops fighting, stops praying, and stops expecting.
- The Bible records many sad stories of people who lost heart and gave up, because Satan effectively used his tool of discouragement
- **1 Kings 18:1-40; 19:18**
- Elijah did great things for God, which resulted in the conversion of thousands of Israelites

- **1 Kings 19:1-18**

- He had become so **discouraged** when Jezebel threatened his life that he deceived himself into thinking that he was the only servant of God left
- **We become discouraged when we make the same mistake that these guys made and start paying more attention to the obstacles than the opportunities.**
- We become discouraged when we start believing Satan, “the father of lies” (John 8:44), instead of the Father “who cannot lie” (Tit. 1:2).

- **John 8:44**

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- **Titus 1:2**

- In the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

When expectations do not become a reality, discouragement comes.

- Discouragement can come from high or low moments.
- Discouragement Distorts What God Already Declared
- Satan can't change God's promise, so he tries to change your perspective.
- Discouragement makes temporary moments feel permanent.
- It magnifies problems and minimizes God's power.
- **2 Corinthians 5:7**
- “We walk by faith, not by sight.”

Matthew 4:4

- Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’
- **Isaiah 41:10**
- Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- **Joshua 1:8**
- This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Discouragement is spiritual deception — it makes you believe God is absent when He's actually working behind the scenes.

Psalm 42:5

Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Discouragement doesn't break you suddenly — it drains you slowly.

Satan loves discouragement because it is one of his most effective and least detected weapons.

- **1 Samuel 30**

- David returns to Ziklag to find everything burned, his family taken, and his men ready to stone him.
- If anyone had a reason to quit, it was David.
- But instead of collapsing under discouragement, the Bible says, “**David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.**”

THE ATTACK OF DISCOURAGEMENT

(How Satan Uses It)

Discouragement is not random — it is strategic.

Satan knows he cannot destroy you, so he tries to discourage you.

He knows he cannot stop God's plan, so he tries to stop your confidence.

He knows he cannot take your salvation, so he tries to take your strength.

Isolation, condemnation, depression, and suicide

The spirit of discouragement thrives on emotional imbalance.

Discouragement

- Doesn't always come through tragedy — sometimes it comes through fatigue, frustration, or feeling overlooked.
- **Discouragement Comes Spiritually**
- This is not just emotional; it is spiritual warfare.
- **1 Peter 5:8**
- reminds us that the enemy is always looking for an opening.
- **2 Corinthians 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;

THE AIM OF DISCOURAGEMENT

- Discouragement is designed to distort your vision and disconnect your faith.
- **To Distort Your Perspective**
- Discouragement makes temporary moments feel permanent.
- It magnifies the problem and minimizes God's power.
- **To Drain Your Passion**
- David's men "wept until they had no more strength."
- Discouragement drains your desire to pray, worship, or believe.

To Derail Your Purpose

If Satan can't stop your calling, he'll try to stop your confidence.

He wants you to quit before you see what God promised.

Discouragement is the devil's attempt to make you forget what God already said.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Lift your eyes to the hills

THE ANSWER TO DISCOURAGEMENT

(How We Defeat It)

David didn't wait for someone else to lift him.

He didn't wait for circumstances to change.

He didn't wait for the pain to disappear.

The Bible says:

“David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.”

Speak over yourself

1 John 4:4

Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world

Remember God's Faithfulness

David remembered the lion, the bear, and Goliath.

He reminded himself:

“If God did it before, He can do it again.”

Reframe the Situation

David asked the Lord, “Shall I pursue?”

He shifted from weeping to warfare, from panic to prayer.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;
(for he is faithful that promised;)

Re-speak God's Promise.

God told him,

“Pursue, for you shall recover all.”

David spoke what God said — not what he saw.

Discouragement dies when you speak what God said instead of what you feel.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Psalm 61:2: “From the ends of the earth I call out to You whenever my heart is faint.

- Lead me to the rock that is higher than I”.
- **Psalm 34:18:** “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit”.
- **Matthew 11:28:** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”.
- **Psalm 142:3:** “When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then you knew my path.”

CONCLUSION

Discouragement is Satan's weapon — but encouragement is God's strategy.

David went from broken... to believing.

From weeping... to warring.

From discouraged... to determined.

And the Bible says he recovered all.

You may be in a Ziklag season, but God has a recovery waiting on the other side of your obedience.

Psalm 84:11

The LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Declare this over your life:

I will not die in discouragement.

I will pursue,

I will overtake

I will recover all

Deuteronomy 28:1

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: