



DISCIPLESHIP INTERNATIONAL

Encouragement

September 24, 2017

We regularly need encouragement

- ▶ Paul wrote about commonly
 - ▶ In literally every letter he wrote
 - ▶ Colossians 2:2 - My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love
 - ▶ 1 Thess 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
- ▶ Jesus encouraged regularly
 - ▶ Luke 18:1 - Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.
 - ▶ Luke 22:32 - But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Why do we need encouragement?

Distraction

Discouragement

Distraction

- ▶ Busy lives
 - ▶ Work, school, family, friends
- ▶ We get distracted from what is true and where our focus needs to be

Truth

- ▶ Truth is that God created the whole world, he loves you, he wants to spend time with you and he has promised to bring his good work to completion
- ▶ Philippians 1:6 - being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Focus

- ▶ Distractions get our eyes off the solution (God) and onto the problems
- ▶ When we focus on God, who he is, how great he is, then
 - ▶ God is closer and bigger
 - ▶ Problems are farther and smaller

Discouragement

- ▶ Difficulties hit us
 - ▶ Financial
 - ▶ Health
 - ▶ Family, relationships
- ▶ Feel like prayers not answered
 - ▶ We give up

Encouragement

- ▶ Remember the Truth
 - ▶ God is still on the throne
 - ▶ Hebrews 1:3 - The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word
 - ▶ He loves you and is working in your life
 - ▶ Philippians 1:6 - he will bring his work in you to completion!

God is working in you!

- ▶ Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
 - ▶ God takes the difficulties and makes them a benefit
 - ▶ In hard times we see God's miracles

**Difficulty = Opportunity to see God's work
in our life**

Pray and Not Give Up

- ▶ Luke 18:1-8
 - ▶ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.
- ▶ Verse 7: And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?
- ▶ Keep praying until God says stop or until he answers!
 - ▶ 2 Corinthians 12:8-9