

Deuteronomy 1:21
Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.

Hebrews 13:22
And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.

II Timothy 4:2
Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Hebrews 10:25
Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Deuteronomy 3:28
But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people...

Jude 3
...It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Hebrews 3:13
But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

2. There is encouragement in your _____.

- a) **There is visual encouragement.**
- b) **There is vocal encouragement.**

UNDERSTANDING VALLEYS

Dr. Mike Wells, Pastor, Wednesday Evening, January 18, 2012

NUMBERS 21:7-8 “7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.”

Numbers 21:1
And when king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners.

Numbers 21:3
And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities.

Numbers 21:4
And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

Numbers 14:2
And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would God we had died in this wilderness!

The Valley of Discouragement

I. Why God's Children Become Discouraged

- A. Our _____ are often long and hard.
- B. Our _____ is often long and hard.
- C. Our _____ are often prone to murmuring and complaining.
- D. Our _____ is often dimmed and limited.



Numbers 21:5

And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

Exodus 16:15

And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

Exodus 17:6

Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Psalms 78:25

Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

I Samuel 30:6

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

E. Our _____ is often lessened for what God gives.

Discouragement is:

- Sin
- Infectious
- Curable

Encouragement cannot be found in:

- Circumstances (temporary, often change)
- Human Reason (no spiritual answers)
- Self-Pity (makes the valley deeper)

II. Where Will God's Children Find Encouragement

A. You will find encouragement in the Lord.

1. There is encouragement in His _____.
2. There is encouragement in His _____.
3. There is encouragement in His _____.
4. There is encouragement in His _____.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Romans 8:31

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Philippians 4:12-13

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

II Corinthians 1:10

Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.

Psalms 119:28

My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

5. There is encouragement in His _____.

B. You will find encouragement in the Word.

1. There is encouragement in Its _____.
2. There is encouragement in Its _____.

C. You will find encouragement in the church

1. There is encouragement in your _____.

- a) *To continue*
- b) *To contend*
- c) *To conform*

Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.