

**Miracles that follow the plow :: Please pray for me. Discouraged.**

**Please pray for me. Discouraged. - posted by shachah, on: 2012/7/9 20:14**

I don't often ask for prayer because I feel selfish knowing how others have great needs but I need some support from other Christians right now. I no longer have meaningful fellowship with the Christians from my church and I feel misunderstood or ignored when I try to talk to them. Sadly, the things of God seem to interest very few. I have felt very much alone and discouraged these past few months. I have struggled with my faith, I have struggled with worship, I have lost my joy. I am disappointed in myself. I have been so distracted and hurt by this and I am weak. I miss enjoying God's presence. Please pray that God would come close to me again and build me back up. I want Him to use me. Please pray that God would enable me to connect with like minded people and that the Christians in my church would know God more fully. Thankyou.

**Re: Please pray for me. Discouraged. - posted by learn (), on: 2012/7/9 20:39**

Hi, I just prayed for you.

You can hang around here (we do bicker and fight but we also love one another) :)  
And never think that you are selfish or not worthy to be prayed for. Everyone of His children are worthy to be prayed for. Also, pls know that God loves you although you may not feel Him close by.

Remember Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

**Re: Please pray for me. Discouraged. , on: 2012/7/9 20:42**

Dear Shachah, many of us have been alone for very long seasons and that's when the enemy seems to get at us and causes us to feel that GOD has left us alone, when actually, it's the aloneness we're feeling from being alone from others.

The LORD allowed me to be alone for a very long time but sent me one dynamic friend, way back then, that I could call or be with and her strength and faith in GOD held me during the most incredibly difficult years of my life. Just one Christian friend can do that. Amen!

Later, as her life got busier, after being there for me any time I needed for over 25 yrs, GOD sent another strong Christian friend that held me up. I still have them both and feel I've met yet another Sister that I could call anytime I need to talk. We're talking about near 30 yr period - but I knew that HE wanted me in that almost-wilderness so that I

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depended on Him alone and would learn His Voice above all of the thousands of voices out there and to study His Word without influences or distractions and a few other reasons for spiritual strength.

I prayed to find my first friend and GOD answered after a few years. I knew lots of people, but to have someone that you can confide in and they'd understand everything about you - that usually is a rare find.

I'd like to pray that you find such a friend and then find somewhere that you can just worship with folks. I love corporate worship because it makes me feel that we're before The Throne in Heaven.

Yes, we'll pray for you dear Saint. Be of good cheer. He hasn't deserted you - Amen!

**Re: Please pray for me. Discouraged. , on: 2012/7/9 21:19**

Dear fellow believer,

I only have a brief moment to respond at this time, but perhaps others will respond as well.

Be encouraged, brother. It may be a little consolation for you to be reminded that there are MANY brothers and sisters out in the wilderness right now. I see them all over the country, and all over the world. For the true believer, seeking to really know God as He really is, and to serve Him completely, sometimes the road is lonely. In our lack of good, wholesome, spirit-filled fellowship, we get weak and tired; and sometimes we fall back into that "old man" who talks us into doing the things that we "would not do." (Rom. 7)

I would encourage you to perhaps do a quick read of the book of Acts, and do your best to put yourself in the shoes of the believers (apostles) then. Ask the Spirit of the Lord to strengthen you from within and to help you see and know your spiritual posture through Jesus Christ. Sincerely confess your shortcomings to Him and humbly accept His forgiveness - then move on in a spirit of grace (power) and humility. We will pray that He will strengthen your heart.

**Re: Please pray for me. Discouraged. - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/7/9 21:55**

I will pray for you. I pray HE will draw you close to HIM and that you will very soon find the fellowship of other brothers and sisters in the LORD.

God bless  
maryjane

**Re: - posted by ET101, on: 2012/7/10 1:47**

I will pray too, Shachah.

But also know this: being alone, separated and misunderstood. . .hurt. . .depressed. . .sometimes are God's very own sending. They really change who you are and make you more reliant on Him alone, more independent from others while dependent on Him, and basically, it comes with the faith :-)

So take joy too in the sufferings. Abide in Him and hold on strong in Him while bravely asking Him to do whatever it takes to make you exactly as He wishes. . .

I will pray today.

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/7/10 2:09**

I just added this video brother that might encourage you greatly in the Lord:

(Words Of Life) 60 - The Purpose Of Failure by Zac Poonen  
<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/myvideo/photo.php?lid=3049>

**Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/7/10 3:17**

amen to all the prayers here

i no how you you feel brother

**Re: - posted by Mekdi (), on: 2012/7/10 8:38**

" Do not err, my beloved brethern. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, WITH WHOM IS NO VARIABleness, NEITHER SHADOW OF TURNING." james 1 16,17

I am with you in prayer. Variableness belongs to us. Our lives may vary. We find it high at times but again down at times. Though your life vary, remember that God still has no variableness and does not set like a sun which sets and causes shadow by turning away. God never has a shadow of turning. Though you change, he never changes so you are not lost. He is the same for you whether you are on a top of a mountain or deep in a valley. Because of his unchanging attribute, you are not lost!

**Re: Please pray for me. Discouraged. - posted by shachah, on: 2012/7/10 10:59**

I appreciate all your prayers, encouragement and advice. I found the video useful, in particular, the story of Peter's failings being used by God to humble him and then using him mightily on the day of Pentecost.

I should also clarify that I am female. Thankyou for your support.

**Re: Please pray for me. Discouraged. - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/7/11 17:37**

QUOTE:"I no longer have meaningful fellowship with the Christians from my church and I feel misunderstood or ignored when I try to talk to them. Sadly, the things of God seem to interest very few. I have felt very much alone and discouraged these past few months."==SHACACH

Get used to it. This will increasingly be the case as we rush headlong towards the rise of the Antichrist and worldwide apostasy in these last, last days. If we can't handle it now, when the real persecution starts, then what?

**Re: Please pray for me. Discouraged. - posted by ccchhhrrriiss (), on: 2012/7/11 19:18**

Hi shachah,

I think that most of us have felt the discouragement that you mentioned. After all, we are flawed human beings confined to this side of the "glass darkly" and "poor reflection" (I Corinthians 3:12) despite having given ourselves to the Lord. We have all failed, been misunderstood and ignored. In fact, I think that this is a common denominator for all believers -- especially those who desperately endeavor to be closer to God.

Do not feel embarrassed, ashamed or selfish by needing the encouragement of others. Encouragement, according to Hebrews 10:24-25 is a reason that we are supposed to meet together. Sadly, it seems that many go to church and just don't find encouragement from it.

Years ago, there was a PEANUTS comic strip (extremely spiritual, right?) that I think illustrated the need. In the comic strip, there is a terrible storm. Snoopy (the dog) is terribly frightened by the storm. His owner, Charlie Brown, seeks to reassure Snoopy. He tells Snoopy that he will be there with him. He reassures him that the storm will soon pass and the sun will come up in the morning. After further encouragement, Snoopy is encouraged enough to go back to sleep. The last panel shows Charlie Brown laying afraid in his bed during the storm. He asks, "Who reassures the reassurer?"

<http://tinyurl.com/reassurethereassurer>

I think that this is a fitting -- albeit fictional -- anecdote about believers. We spend our lives trying to minister to others. We share our hearts, our money, our homes and all else that we have after having surrendered it to the Lord. Our hearts hurt for others and we are motivated as seeing this world as "sheep having no Shepherd" and caring first for those in the Body of Christ. Yet, when discouragement comes, it often hits us like a ton of bricks. Many times, we feel that we have no one to go to in order to find the encouragement that we so freely give. We have been there...and it isn't a happy place.

The Word of God encourages us. And, of course, we can learn to be like David who "encouraged himself" in the Lord. However, let me encourage you, brother, by reminding you of a few things from Scripture. In Psalm 1, we are told about the man who delights himself in the law of the Lord (remember: we are under a very simple law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus - Romans 8:1-2). The Word says that he will yield his fruit in season. In other words, we go through periods in our lives that are different than others.

On our journey along this "straight and narrow" (difficult) path (Matthew 7), we don't always have those wonderful "mountaintop" experiences. Sometimes, we go through tough and trying "valley of the shadow of death" times and experiences. This should be expected! In fact, Jesus promised us that we would have tribulations in this life!

At other times, we go through periods of failure. We feel like everything we do fails. We turn to others who often unwittingly reinforce that sentiment. And, of course, we sometimes give in to the arm of our flesh and attempt to serve the Lord in fleshly ways. Such pride and attitude can lead to sin.

You can see this in the lives of many people in God's Word. It seems like some of the most godly and inspiring characters in the Word went through some very difficult and discouraging times. Abraham had an issue with doubt and turned to Hagar and created Ismael in an attempt to "help" God fulfill His promise. Jacob had both daddy and children issues. Moses killed a man and even after having seen the fire and miracles of God, he still chose to strike the rock twice (Numbers 20). We can go through the entire Bible and find godly men who were flawed and often fell to discouragement and sin before finding their way back to God.

I think that David is a wonderful case study in discouragement. He had such a great experience in the things of God. He could play skillfully to the point that demons fled from Saul. He killed a giant and rescued the armies of Israel. He was celebrated among the children of Israel and Judah to the point that they sang songs about how he killed tens of thousands. He had been anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel. Yet, by 1 Samuel 30, he was fleeing for his life from King Saul. His camp had just been raided, the women and children taken and the people were speaking about stoning him.

Despite it all, we learn in 1 Samuel 30:6 that during this extremely discouraging time, David learned to encourage himself in the Lord. The NIV says that he "found strength" in the Lord. If ever there was a place, THIS is the place to find it! Why? The opinions and thoughts of men are fleeting. We are not equipped to provide the exact encouragement that a discouraged brother or sister might need. Yet, we can always point them to the One who can give strength.

Later on, we learn more about David's highs and lows. He eventually was crowned king. Yet, he fell into sin by committing adultery with Bathsheba, having her husband killed and then covering it up. But even after such sin, David turned back to the Lord (which cannot be said of King Saul). When confronted by his sin, David cried out the words of Psalm 51. He was a "man after God's own heart." His heart came back to the Lord and David was more concerned about straying from the presence of God than anything else in this world.

<http://tinyurl.com/createcleanheart>

Many years later, a new king ruled in Jerusalem. Hezekiah ruled hundreds of years after David had lived, fallen into terrible sin and repented of it and died. At one point, the city of Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrians. Hezekiah cried out to God for mercy and protection.

Do you know what the Lord answered?

The Lord said, "For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, AND FOR MY SERVANT DAVID'S SAKE" (Isaiah 37:5).

This was many years after David had fallen into sin, discouragement and disgrace. However, after all of that, David turned back to the Lord for his strength. He was a man "after God's own heart." God still thought so highly of David that he told Hezekiah that he would defend Jerusalem for His own Name's sake and the sake of His servant David. God looked past David's failures, discouragement, sin and hurt and looked at a heart that longed for Him.

When Jesus walked this earth, he wasn't known as the "son of Abraham," "the son of Isaac," "the son of Moses," etc... He was known as "the son of David." That should speak volumes about the heart of God!

We can find our encouragement -- strength -- in the Lord by knowing that He is there for us. His attention is always upon us. He is omnipotent and can direct His full attention upon us at all times...even when we can't "feel" it quite so much.

Let me encourage you, shachah, to keep your eyes upon the Lord. Find your strength in Him through prayer, worship and study of His Word even at times where you feel "out of season." As such, you will yield fruit "in season" and your leaf will not wither (Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17). Even when you don't feel it, He is with you -- even through the "valley of the shadow of death" (Psalm 23). Before you know it, you will find sudden encouragement that will yield yet another "mountaintop" experience that you can remember as you walk through the next valley in your journey through the wilderness of this world.

May the Lord bless you and keep you! May His face shine upon you and give you peace!

\*EDIT - I added a link to the anecdotal comic strip that I mentioned and corrected the reference.

**Re: - posted by NMatheson (), on: 2012/7/20 23:35**

I have been going through this very same "dry season" in and out for a while. I know how you feel to think you're alone. You know what I have found though? That in my feelings of being alone, it has caused me to delve deeper into God than I ever have. Lamentations and Proverbs really have a way of lifting me up and seeking God. Here are some verses that may encourage you a bit.

John 16:33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world

Ecclesiastes 7:3 - Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

I will be praying for you and anyone else who feels alone in this world. It's a hard thing to go through but the growth potential is only limited by how earnestly we seek God through it! Be encouraged and lift your eyes to the Lord! Ponder the glory of creation and the wonder of its majesty!

**Re: Please pray for me. Discouraged. - posted by Myst (), on: 2012/7/25 1:40**

Hi Shachah,

Very often our Father, Who knows our hearts, wants to draw us nearer to him, because we have a heart that pants after Him. When He draws us, there is a clear feeling of emptiness, because of it is an emptiness only He can fill. We think something in us is broken and wrong, we feel weak and discouraged as you say, simply because we want to be nearer to Him. Our love for Him, for others, a longing to serve Him and them grows.

When we are in that wonderful place of having a void He created for us, we need to learn how to move into it, hear His voice, follow His guidance, enter into a deeply spiritual communing with Him. There we learn, intimate knowledge of Him grows, wisdom comes, understanding enters, power is imparted for many things.

While the emptiness, the wilderness, feels really bad, it is just a prelude to crossing the Jordan into the promised land where the battle truly begins. Those very few who survive the wilderness enter the essence of divine life to find themselves in the kingdom of God, the place our Father has intended us to be.

Most are content to remain in Egypt, although a captivity, still filled with its sensual pleasures. When they do enter the wilderness of discovery, many choose to turn back to Egypt. But we can not move on into the kingdom without that wilderness survival and growth.

Be still when you can, commune with Him, and He will reveal Himself more fully to you. Do not despair, but be happy you are where you are, in a place where you will find Him as you never imagined would happen.

There you will also find others who understand.