

Isaiah 51:1-8

Encouragement in Dark Times

Word of the Day Encouragement

1. Encouragement comes from Listening

John 8:47

- Those who pursue righteousness are the ones who are making a conscience effort to make sure that their lives are lived in a way pleasing to God.
- You who seek are those who want to do the will of God and not just their own will.

2. Encouragement comes from Remembering the Past

Luke 18:24-27

- Look to the rock that you were cut from and the quarry you were dug out of.
- This was a divine miracle and salvation from God is a miracle and not something man can create or achieve on his own.
- In Genesis 12 God called, cut out, Abraham to be a blessing to other nations and we must remember that we were not saved to just live for ourselves.

3. Encouragement comes from Looking past the present

Romans 4:18-22, 1 Peter 3:15

- Desolate Ruins showed that the city was now rubble and looked to be beyond repair.
- Rejoicing and Joy is how it will be when God one day restores His creation back to His original design.
- True perspective of life can only be achieved when we focus on the overall picture of what God promised us and not on our individual circumstances.

4. Encouragement comes from Focusing on God

5. Encouragement Comes from Remembering this is Temporary

2 Corinthians 5:21, Luke 21:33, 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

6. Encouragement Comes from Doing God's Will

2 Peter 3:17-18, Matthew 5:11-12, Psalm 118:6

- To know righteousness is to learn and apply the standard that God has set, and they have internalized it to make it impact their life.

Closing Points

- There are no promises that this life will be easy or comfortable.
- Many have followed Christ in the most difficult of circumstances because they remembered that they needed a Savior and not a Genie.
- We must take time to listen and apply the words of God in our lives
- We need to remember that salvation is from God and God alone
- We must look past our current circumstances and to the day when we will stand before God (That is what it means to Fear Him)
- We must focus on God and Do His will and not our own.

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John 15:5



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Family Devotions

1. Have you ever had someone say that they were listening, but they really were not?
2. How do we listen to the words of God and not listen to them?
3. What can you do to do a better job of listening to the words of God?
4. What is the promise in verse 3 that God says He is going to restore the earth back to?
5. What is the result of God doing that according to verse 3?
6. Who does verse 4-5 tell us God is going to do?
7. What is going to happen to the earth according to verse 6?
8. Who are we not supposed to fear and why according to verse 7-8?
9. What is going to last forever?
10. What does 2 Corinthians 5:21 say about how we can last forever?