

“Be Encouraged!”
May 28, 2017

First show the YouTube video “Earning the EFMB (*Expert Field Medical Badge*)” by completing a 12-mile march within 3 hours (April 29, 2015):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6x2guhVu_w

1 Samuel 30:1-10, 17-18 (David found himself surrounded by devastated men—rather than surrendering to depression—he encouraged himself in the Lord—and then he encouraged them!)

CORE: The best encouragers—know how to stay encouraged.

They have learned how to stay in these places:

1. PRAISE

Psalm 71:8 NASV- “My mouth is filled with Your praise and with Your glory all day long!”

- “Never allow anything to get bigger than You, Lord!!!”
- “Nothing will stop me from dwelling in You & raving about You!”
-

DAVID- Lived “in His house all days”; including his worst days

- Discovered the “secret place” (despite rejection- *family, Saul*)
- Delighted God’s heart → enraged Saul’s jealousy (ran over 10 yrs.)
- Attracted 600 rejected men → turned them into “giant killers”
- Accepted by Philistines (*gave him city of “Ziklag”*)
- Rejected by Philistines...then (*after Amalekites*) by his own men!

James 1:3ff

- Trials...not sent by God...
- Yet, when we thank Him **IN** the trial, we take it from the enemy’s hands...**declaring it set apart to God for His purposes!!!!**

2. PRAYER

Prayer is what we are **filled with & fueled by**. (Lit.- “*to purpose & pursue until fulfillment*”) (i.e., **Ephesians 3:14-21- “For this cause I kneel...until...”**).

[In a world of “instant”— learn to persevere; stop quitting prematurely]

Philippians 2:1- “...encouragement from being united with Christ”

Prayer Posture: “*I will NEVER face anything alone!*”

(*St. Patrick’s breastplate: “Christ within me...behind me...before me”*)

**NOTE: In prayer—God either decreases the load OR strengthens the carrier
(Either “melts mountains” or helps us “move them”)**

*i.e., 10 spies scared of giants...Joshua “scaring off the giants” **Something happens when BELIEVERS show up!!!***

3. PROMISES

***“Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well.”
(1 Timothy 1:18)***

[Scripture, prophetic words, dreams, personal words]

- HIS WORDS→ “light up our pathway (purpose)” ...not just inspire us for a moment [“Speaks of the end” (Hab. 2:3)]
- Abraham did not try to figure out the promises...he yielded to the One who promised them (Romans 4:18-21)

Hebrews 10:35- “Don’t throw away your confidence...great reward (results)”

Hebrews 10:39- “We are not of those who shrink back!”

Hebrews 6:12- “Through BOTH Faith AND endurance we INHERIT our promises!”

(NOTE: Prayer/Fire Tunnel---with a prayer & declaration focus on ENCOURAGEMENT)