

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

December 18, 2012

Issue No. 73 Mark Aites, Editor

Discouragement

"More people fail through discouragement than for any other reason." – Anonymous

"Never, never, never quit!" – Winston Churchill

"In spite of everything I shall rise again: I will take up my pencil, which I have forsaken in my great discouragement, and I will go on with my drawing." – Vincent Van Gogh

"Seeds of discouragement will not grow in the thankful heart." – Anonymous

Are you discouraged? Admittedly, every child of God goes through periods of discouragement. It seems to hit us at various times. We must remember that it is one of Satan's most powerful weapons against us.

One of the Old Testament stories that is unusual is the story of Elijah. The great prophet stood against the prophets of Baal and Ashera (1 Kings 18). He gave the impression of being so strong in his confrontation with Ahab as he requested the gathering on Mt. Carmel with the false prophets who ate at Jezebel's table (1 Kings 18:18-19). We read of how he faced the false prophets and the people with such amazing resolve. It wasn't until God sent down the fire that the people were convinced of what the prophet believed all along (1 Kings 18:39).

Elijah seemed so confident as he executed the false prophets (1 Kings 18:40). We see it as a remarkable story of faith. But as we turn our Bibles to the very next chapter, what do we find, but a prophet who becomes greatly discouraged. When Jezebel learned what had been done, Elijah fled. His discouragement became so great that he begged God to take his life (1 Kings 19:4). Subsequently he fled to a cave, and it was there that the word of the Lord came to him with that powerful question: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:9). This question was repeated again in verse 13.

How can a man who so powerfully stood with boldness and courage have reached a point of such discouragement and despair? What is troubling is that this occurred after having seen the manifestation of God's power!

Yes, periods of discouragement will come to all of God's children. The recent violence and shootings, and the country turning from God have a lot of His children discouraged even now.

We must rise above it. Until we realize that this is a tool of the devil to get us so discouraged that we would be tempted to turn from God, we are going to allow events and situations to keep us down. Remember who is behind this!