

Be Encouraged and Expect God

Don't you find it difficult to be encouraged no matter what situation you are in? King David and his military men had experienced a great loss when they discovered their wives and children were taken captive at Ziklag while they were engaged in battle. If that wasn't bad enough, David's own men turned against him and wanted to kill him. David had no one to encourage him, so he decided to encourage himself in the Lord. 1 Samuel 30:6 says, "*And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke 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.*"

So how do you encourage yourself? Begin to recite the things God has done for you, perhaps some promises He has made, or even what you want to declare that God will do for you. We are commanded to not forget God's promises or his benefits. Psalms 103:2 says, "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*" So, no matter what you are facing, know that God will see you through it. Just begin to speak encouraging words to yourself when you stand alone.

Have you ever wondered why God wants you to experience these things? God loves you so much that He wants you to know who you are and who He is. Mostly we learn this when we go through hard times. You see God is in the process of building your faith for something greater and He needs you to learn to stand and encourage yourself. It may be that God wants to send a miracle!

Look at Moses, he had to encouragement himself to stand alone before Pharaoh, yet He didn't ask God for a miracle. All he was trying to do was to go a three-day journey into the wilderness to worship God. Yet for some reason, he couldn't seem to get there. (Ever been there?) The Israelites were mumbling, Pharaoh's army was hot on his trail, the Red Sea was in front of him, and the mountains on each side. Basically, he was a sitting duck waiting for the kill. He didn't sign up for all of this, but boy did he need a miracle! And God showed up and divided the Red Sea and drowned the Pharaoh's army. What a glorious miracle!

Look at Paul and Peter, they asked for boldness to preach the gospel of Christ and were beaten and thrown into the bottom of the prison where the dung heaps fell, yet they still praised their God. Then God sent an earthquake to open the prison doors and the jailer came to know this Christ. They didn't ask for a miracle, they just were encouraging themselves, yet God sent a miracle! We could go on and on talking about the many miracles that God sent when his servants were doing as he asked. But you can be sure that God would not require you to go through difficult situations if he wasn't with you.

Some time ago the Lord said to me, "Expect." He told me of about 10-20 things that I am to expect like... expect me to answer your prayers...expect me to be present...expect great and marvelous things. He said, "I need you to expect me to do it for you." So, I say to you, when you go through difficult situations learn to expect God to show up for you. If you have prayed, or you've done all that you know to do, then encourage yourself and expect God to do miracles. It's important that you believe in your own prayers. God does hear and answer them.

Father, in the name of Jesus, I declare that the spirits of discouragement, despair, confusion, doubt, unbelief, worry, anxiousness, fretfulness, fear, dread, lack of hope, stop in the name of Jesus! I believe Jesus that you are walking with them in all their situations. Thank you for sending your word, the Bible; thank you for sending angels on their behalf; and thank you for the miracles that You will send!

Jesus, You are their hope; You are their righteousness, and they are favored of You. They are honored and chosen so I bless them in your mighty name with good success, grace, peace, and mercy. May the faith of God rest upon them! I truly believe they will see Your miracles, so Jesus help them to encourage themselves and expect You to show up! I believe that you will.

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