

Get back up and Pursue when things don't go your way

1 Samuel 30:1-25³ So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. ⁴ Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.⁶ Now 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 his daughters. But David strengthened (encouraged) himself in the LORD his God. ⁷ Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. ⁸ So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake *them* and without fail recover *all*."¹⁸ So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives. ¹⁹ And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all. ²⁰ Then David took all the flocks and herds they had driven before those *other* livestock, and said, "This *is* David's spoil."

I. Encourage yourself in the Lord

- David encouraged himself in the Lord (when there was no encouragement from others).
- I appreciate the encouragement of others and receive it, but I cannot base my life and direction on it.
- There is a place in God where you can be encouraged independent from circumstances.
- The worst thing to do is make major decisions when you are upset and discouraged - like quitting.
- Notice - David encouraged himself in the Lord first before he sought guidance.
- When you are depressed you are not listening to God, but the enemy and your flesh.

How do I find encouragement?

1. Praying in the Holy Spirit.

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

2. Meditating in the word (There is always a scripture for my situation).

Psalms 119:94-95 I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts. ⁹⁵ The wicked wait for me to destroy me, *But* I will consider Your testimonies.

3. Warring with my prophecies: When you read your prophecies you are speaking God's will over your life.

1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

4. Not comparing my life and ministry to others (it is a sure way to get discouraged).

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

-I can learn from and be inspired by others, but other people don't dictate God's direction for me.

II. Seek God's leading in any situation. Rely on the Holy Spirit

Ephod:

- Emblem worn by the priests, and by David
- It had varying colors - gold, blue, purple, scarlet
- It had the Urim and Thummim attached to it
- Onyx stones were on it engraved with names of the twelve tribes of Israel
- The ephod was attached to the priest, strapped over the shoulder
- Used as an oracle, means of communication (unexplained)
- Some conjecture that the stones were dark if the answer was no, and when lit up the answer was yes.
- It became abused and a form of idolatry by some
- It stopped being used for guidance once the prophetic ministry was developed

In NT we know we have the Holy Spirit who helps us with guidance.

John 14:26 (AMP) But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you

Peace is the New Testament Urim and thummim. In the Old Testament God's guidance was on the outside of their hearts; In the New Testament it is in our hearts!!!!!!

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

III. Perseverance wins in the end. Set backs are a part of life and ministry

This may have been one of David's most discouraging moments that made him and those around him want to quit. But shortly after this trial David came into his promise that he would be king in Israel.

"Just before you break through the sound barrier, the cockpit shakes the most." Chuck Yeager

How did David strengthen himself in the Lord? Maybe he reflected on past victories and deliverances, meditated in God's word, or remembered prophecy he would be king.

