

## Encouragement in this present evil world

When we as believers get persecuted, shunned or excommunicated.

How do you overcome that?

How do you get your comfort/encouragement?

How do you find the strength to be able to continue on?

Do you trust in counseling from other people for your encouragement?

How about trusting in Gods inspired word for your encouragement?

This is what the Bible tells us:

Psalms 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Our apostle Paul left us with some encouraging words throughout his epistles;

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Paul took pleasure in his infirmities, persecutions etc. Do we take pleasure in these?

Sometimes when we are very discouraged, that is when we are the strongest!! Paul also said this;

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Can you relate to this? Once you became a believer, did you have some people come against you? Like people that you thought were your friends? Your own family? Worldly people don't realize what they are doing to Gods children.

Remember in times past;

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

This explains who we were before we were saved. Unsaved people are still walking in the darkness of the world.

Let us remember what Jesus Christ did, to deliver us from that darkness of the world;

Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

He made it possible for us to not having to be a part of this world.

Now he gives us instructions to be strong and to put on the armour of God, to resist the wiles of the devil while we are still here in the this present evil world.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Here we see that the battle isn't against flesh and blood, it's fighting spiritual wickedness, not physical.

Paul reminds us who we are in Christ and to not fear the afflictions (pain or suffering) of the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

We are not to be ashamed of the Gospel!!

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

We are only here for a short time, this world is not our home! The glory will be so amazing!!

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These are great, encouraging promises from God!! The one who saved us! The one who gave us of his Spirit !! Titus 1:2 tells us that God can not lie!!

Now to top it off, (for all of us that are believers) look at this;

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Amazing!! This is who we are in Christ!!

These words are to bring comfort to us believers;

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Do we think on this fact daily? Or do we just think on the material things daily and only think on this truth occasionally?

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

There are so many encouraging truths in Gods words, yet a lot of people don't even know that they are there for us to build ourselves up on for our encouragement, so we can continue to walk in his Spirit!!

There are many more comforting verses in the Bible. Search them out and be encouraged from Gods inspired word!!!

And remember;

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.