



Bible Study
June 3, 2020

CHOP WOOD CARRY WATER

Chapter 11
Evil's Best Weapon: Discouragement
Countering Evil's Best Weapon
2 Corinthians 12:9
Psalm 34:17-18
Psalm 23:6

In this chapter, Akira shares with John the danger of becoming discouraged. He teaches that discouragement is more powerful than any other tool of evil and most people never recognize it when it shows up—[John 10:10a](#).

To be discouraged is to lose confidence or enthusiasm. It is to dishearten or prevent by showing disapproval or by creating difficulties. It is to dissuade or deter.

If we are not careful and focused on the Word of God, the events during the past few weeks, months, and years will cause one to be discouraged when no one seems to be listening, when nothing seems to be happening, when changes seem to never come, or when the same things continue over and over again. The enemy wants and attempts to discourage you. Remember, discouragement is one of Satan's most power tools. Satan plants seeds of doubt.

Akira tells John that discouragement actually gets into a person's heart and when a person is discouraged, they are like putty in your hands. With discouragement, you can squash the most powerful dreams, destroy the greatest ideas, and ruin lives without detection.

Some of the seeds of discouragement is the voice inside your head that says you are not good enough. Other times it might show up when you keep giving your best and are not succeeding. Other times the disapproval or criticism of others plant the seeds of doubt. You are not ever going to amount to anything. That's why we must know the Word of God—**2 Timothy 1:7**.

To avoid discouragement, you must fuel your heart with the things of God—**Joshua 1:5-9**.

- 1) Know the promises of God—**Verse 5**
- 2) Know what God has prepared you to do—**Verse 6** (your identity in Christ)
- 3) Know what to practice—**Verses 7-8**
- 4) Know you have God's presence—**Verse 9**

Encouragement Scriptures:

Romans 8:31-32, ³¹What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³²Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

1 Corinthians 10:13, ¹³The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Romans 8:26, And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

2 Corinthians 12:9, ⁹Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

Psalm 34:17-18, ¹⁷The LORD hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. ¹⁸The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

Psalm 23:6, ⁶Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.