

"Hold the Fort, For I Am Coming.

D. L. Moody

I am told that when General Sherman went through Atlanta towards the sea, through the Southern States, he left, in the fort in the Kennesaw Mountains, a little handful of men to guard some rations that he had brought there.

General Hood got into the outer rear and attacked the fort, driving the men in from the outer works into the inner works, and for a long time, the battle raged fearfully. Half of the men were either killed or wounded. The general who was in command was wounded seven different times; and when they were about ready to run up the white flag and surrender the fort, Sherman got within fifteen miles. Through the flag signal corps on a mountain, he sent the message "Hold the fort; I am coming. — W. T. Sherman."

That message fired up their hearts, and they held the fort until reinforcements came. The fort did not go into the hands of their enemies.

I hope there will be a thousand young converts coming into our ranks to help hold the "fort". Our Saviour is in command, and He is coming. Let us sing the famous hymn Mr. Bliss has written; a

hymn entitled "Hold the Fort ":
"Ho! My comrades, see the signal
Waving in the sky!
Reinforcements now appearing.
Victory is nigh!"

Chorus:
"Hold the fort, for I am coming,"
Jesus signals still,
Wave the answer back to heaven,
By Thy grace we will."

Three Cheers

Author Unknown

Once, when a great fire broke out and people thought that all those that lived in the apartment had been taken out, way up there in the fifth story, was seen a little child crying for help. Up went a ladder, and soon a fireman was seen ascending to the spot. As he neared the second story the flames burst in fury from the windows, and the multitude almost despaired of the rescue of the child.

The brave man faltered, and a comrade at the bottom cried out, "Cheer him!" and cheer upon cheer arose from the crowd. Up the ladder he went and saved the child, because they cheered him. If you cannot go into the heat of the battle yourself, if you cannot go into the harvest field and work day after day, you can cheer those that are working for the Master. I see many old people in their old days getting crusty and sour, and they discourage every one they meet by their fault finding. That is not what we want. You do not know how much you may do by just speaking kindly to those that are willing to work.



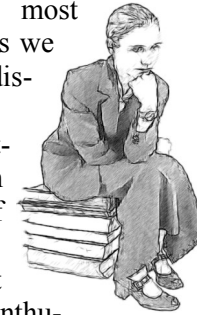
Encouragement

Bill Brinkworth

One of the most debilitating forces we all face is discouragement.

Many have started out with much zeal and hope of accomplishing great goals, but somehow their enthusiasm was diminished. Some that were recently saved were excited and zealous about doing something for God; however, they too may have ceased from doing what they planned.

It may have been that the goal or dream required more effort to achieve than they had expected, or perhaps someone's "help" or advice discouraged them from even trying. Maybe an unkind word or even another's disapproving look took the air out of their sails, and they drifted off course, never to accomplish what they had set out to do. Sometimes it is another's intentional verbal



reprimands that discourage one permanently from ever trying again. Discouragement is too often faced.

Continued on Page 2

Always Happy

D. L. Moody

There was a man converted some years ago, and he was just full of praise. He was living in the light all the time. We might be in the darkness, but he was always in the light. He used to preface everything he said in the meeting with "Praise God." One night he came to the meeting with his finger all bound up. He had cut it, and cut it pretty badly. Well, I wondered how he would praise God for this; but he got up and said, "I have cut my finger, but, praise God, I didn't cut it off." So, if things go against you; just think; they might have been a good deal worse.

Be encouraged! If you are a Christian, you are on the winning side!

Receive the weekly e-mail version of *The Bible View* from: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com

Encouragement

Continued from Page 1

One should never use lack of encouragement or support as an excuse not to do what is right or to accomplish one's goals. Talk is cheap, but all still get discouraged from time-to-time. What do we do when our disenchantment is over-whelming? Too many get discouraged and go no further. This is never a solution to the problem.

God has provided wisdom for Christians to deal with discouragement. His first advice is to get one's mind off one's self, and put God first in one's life (Galatians 2:20, Gal. 5:24-25, II Corinthians 5:15, Romans 14:7). If we find ourselves discouraged, it is usually because our emphasis is not on Him, but on ourselves.

A self-centered person is often unhappy and discouraged. Encouraging others is a way to feel better about ourselves. Some of our happiest, most encouraging memories are those of when we put our energies into making another person feel better. God also knows that if we encourage those around us, when we are in need of uplifting, there will be one to meet our needs in that area. Those that criticize and wound those around them with their cruel tongue and attitude should not be surprised that there is no one around to help them in

their time of need.

Moses, who experienced discouragement many times, knew what an encouraging word could do. When turning his responsibility of leadership over to Joshua, Moses told the people that they needed to encourage their new leader (Deuteronomy 1:28, 3:28). He also reminded them critical talk had disheartened them in the past.

Hezekiah, when trying to get Israel to once again serve the Lord, instructed the people to obey the law of God and give to the servants of God like they were supposed to; so they would be encouraged (II Chronicles 31:4). Josiah also knew the priests would be encouraged when others obeyed God's command and served God properly (II Chron. 35:1-2).

There certainly will be times when no support comes from anyone. What does one do then? Most of the time, the only one that can really encourage us is ourselves. When the people of Israel were commanded to battle an opponent they did not want to fight, no cheerleaders ran to the center of the battlefield and urged them on. They had to encourage themselves (Judges 20:22).

David faced many dis-

appointments and was often discouraged. The king knew people would let him down quite often; so he encouraged himself that God would help him as He had done in the past.

"And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake 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." I Samuel 30:6

How did David encourage himself in the Lord? He did it by remembering all the hard times and difficulties that God had helped him with in the past. If God had helped him in the past, he knew that He would help him again! This faith gave him the assurance that no matter where he was or what he was facing, God would help him (Psalm 42:6).

Has God helped you in the past? If He has, and there is no unconfessed sin between you and Him, why would He not do it again? That is encouraging.

Now I know all this, but recently, I hate to admit, I was a little disenchanted myself. I could not pull out of it by even encouraging myself, until I walked into the nursing home where I preach each week. Almost immediately a woman wheeled over to me in her wheelchair and started boasting

about God. Soon we were both bragging on Him. That encouraged me! Next, we started singing the old hymns about Jesus and His goodness. That encouraged me! Remembering how good God is also uplifted me. So, that is what encouraging oneself "in the Lord" also means!

God knows it is so essential that we uplift each other, that not only are we all capable of encouraging each other and ourselves, but He also gives some the spiritual gift of exhorting (encouraging) others (Romans 12:8). Encouragement is necessary for all, including believers.

Sitting around discouraged will never help anyone! The only way out of a disenchanted mindset is to change something. Instead of waiting to be "fixed", be a fixer! Break the sad cycle of discouragement and be an encourager — to others and yourself. We all could use your inspiring words. One day, when you need it the most, there will be one nearby to lift you up with their encouraging words or actions, because you encouraged another and broke the cycle of discouragement!

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Galatians 6:9



"It takes little skill, intelligence, or character to discourage anyone. It does take those three virtues to encourage others. Maybe that is why encouragement is so lacking today!"