

DON'T EVER GIVE UP!

11/12/2023 AM

INTRO:

A. Read text: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

B. Regarding the text:

1. Have you ever been discouraged and felt like quitting?
 - 1) Ever been disappointed in people you respected?
 - 2) Ever thought if being a Christian is worth the effort?
2. If “yes,” you are in company with many other Christians.
3. Jesus did not promise that following Him would be easy.
 - 1) But...He said, “My yoke is easy...,” but it is still a yoke that we must wear.
 - 2) He also said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Matt. 16:24).
 - 3) He told His disciples, “If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:20).

C. Discouragement is one of the chief weapons Satan uses.

DISCUSSION:

I. WHAT IS DISCOURAGEMENT?

A. Webster says to discourage is “to deprive of courage, hope or confidence, to dishearten.”

B. The Hebrew Christians were discouraged.

1. They were being persecuted for their faith (Heb. 12:4).
2. They had become neglectful of their study (Heb. 5:12).
3. They were also neglecting the worship assembly (Heb. 10:24-25).
4. They were in danger of falling away (Heb. 2:1; 4:1; 10:26).

II. HOW DO WE OVERCOME DISCOURAGEMENT?

A. When we are frustrated, we need to remember God.

1. Take it to the Lord in prayer (James 5:13).
2. Keep your eye on Jesus (Heb. 12:1-2).
3. Leaning on Him will strengthen us (Psalm 40:2; 61:2).

B. Remember our brethren.

1. Biblical examples of those who did not give up.
 - 1) Daniel (Dan. 6).
 - 2) Mordecai and Esther (Esther 4).
 - 3) Stephen (Acts 7).
 - 4) Paul (Acts 20:17-21).
2. Today, we help our brethren who are going through hard times.
 - 1) Heb. 3:13.
 - 2) 1 Thess. 5:11.
 - 3) Rom. 12:15.

III. CONCLUSION:

A. Christians are more than conquerors through Christ (Rom. 8:37).

B. God's blessings are for His children (Eph. 1:3).

C. Are you in Christ? (Gal. 3:26-27).