

ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

“...we his servants will arise and build...”

“Keeping Confidence”

A few weeks ago, we considered the Scriptural principles of “Building Encouragement.” Two weeks ago, we considered another facet of encouragement by...FACING ADVERSITY AND FIGHTING FOR VICTORY...and, consequently, “Overcoming Discouragement.”

Last week we considered another aspect in developing encouragement – “Building Confidence through the Storms of Life.”

Generally speaking, many people are *over-confident*, and many have *lack of confidence*. We should have confidence that is centered on the Lord:

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

9 *It is better to **trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.***

Prov. 14:26 **In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence:** and his children shall have a place of refuge.



This week, we will consider...

THE INFLUENCE OF THE PAST

Looking at the past may be a two-edged sword – remembering blessings or remembering heartaches. This morning we will consider how the past can be a tool to instill courage and confidence in facing the present and future challenges.

Heb. 10:32 But **call to remembrance the former days**, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

35 **Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.**

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

❖ Sometimes looking at the past before we were saved gives us encouragement to be thankful for salvation, and for victories we have experienced since being changed by a new relationship with Christ.

I. THE ENDEARMENT FROM THE PAST

A. The Pains of the Past, 10:32

Heb. 10:32 But **call to remembrance the former days**, in which, **after ye were illuminated**, ye endured a **great fight of afflictions**;

Original Word: ἀναμνήσκω

Transliteration: anamimnḗskō

Phonetic Spelling: (an-am-im-nace'-ko)

Definition: to remind, call to one's remembrance

Usage: I remind, admonish, am reminded, remind myself; pass: I remember, recall.

anamimnḗskō (from *aná*, "up, **completing a process**" and *mimnḗskō*, "turn the mind towards") – properly, **to recollect by going through a process – i.e. to journey where the remembrance leads (extends) to.**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/363.htm>

- ❖ Reminding ourselves of survival of past challenges, is encouragement to face any and all new challenges.

1 Sam. 17:37 David said moreover, **The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.** And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

Psa. 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and **delivered me from all my fears.**

2 Tim. 3:11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: **but out of them all the Lord delivered me.**

❖ After salvation we experienced the illumination of God's presence and power that enabled us to endure "...in which, **after ye were illuminated**, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;"

Original Word: φωτίζω

Transliteration: phótizó

Definition: to shine, give light

Usage: (a) I light up, illumine, (b) I bring to light, make evident, reveal.

phōtízō (from *phōs*, "light") – **properly, enlighten; (figuratively) God sharing His life, exposing and overcoming darkness – like the ignorance (prejudice) caused by sin**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5461.htm>

2 Cor. 4:6 **For God**, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, **hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

❖ Spiritual illumination provides the guidance and stamina to endure hardships: “...in which, after ye were illuminated, **ye endured** a great fight of afflictions;”

Original Word: ὑπομένω

Transliteration: hypomenó

Definition: to stay behind, to await, **endure**

Usage: (a) I remain behind, (b) I stand my ground, show endurance, (c) I endure, bear up against, persevere.

hypoménō – literally, *remaining under* (the load), bearing up (enduring); for the believer, this uniquely happens by *God's* power (cf. 1 Thes 3:5). <https://biblehub.com/greek/5278.htm>

Gal. 6:9 And **let us not be weary in well doing**: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

❖ The Lord Jesus Christ is our perfect example of endurance:

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us**,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

❖ We are to endure "...a great **fight** of afflictions;"

Original Word: ἄθλησις

Transliteration: athlḗsis

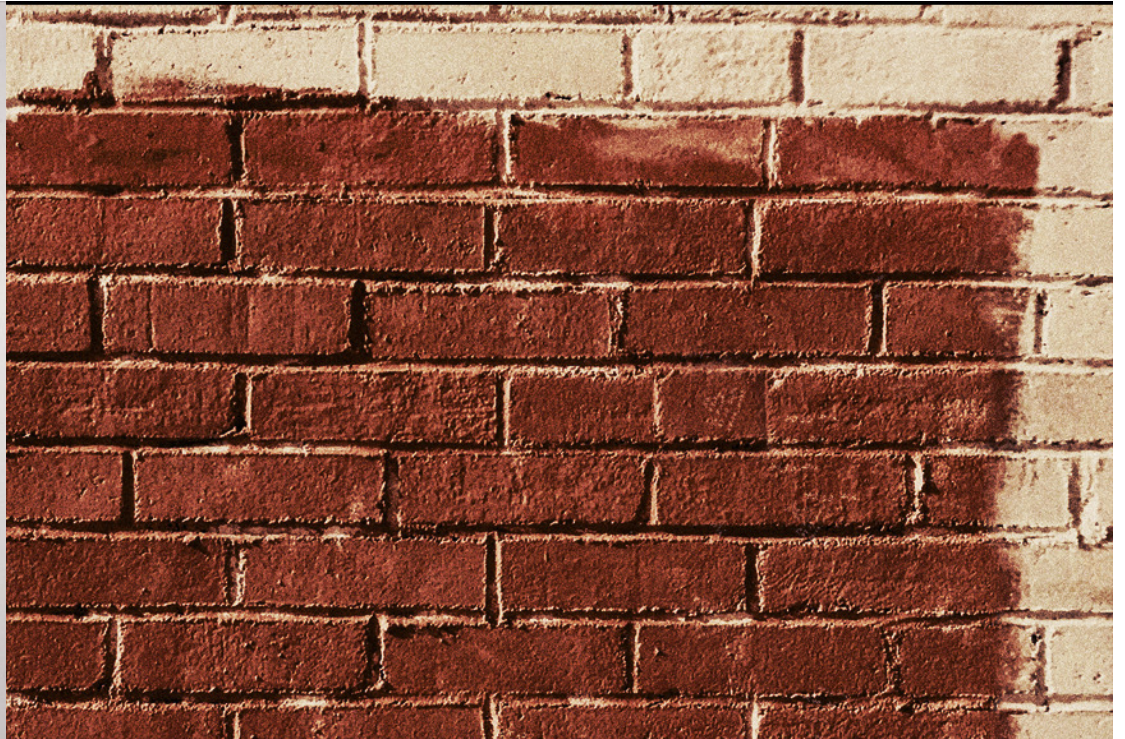
Definition: a contest (**fight**) or combat

Usage: a struggling (as in an athletic contest).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/119.htm>

❖ The “afflictions” are times of sufferings that require great stamina of endurance.

❖ This “...great fight of afflictions;” is indicative of combative activity – **no surrender-no retreat.**



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Athlete/No-Surrender-No-Retreat-470824699735513/>

- ❖ God has provided us the “body armor” in order to overcome “...a great fight of afflictions;” The “spiritual body armor” is found in Eph. 6:10-20.
- ❖ Remember the message from a few weeks ago that teaches us how God encourages us during the “...great fight of afflictions.;

Original Word: πάθημα

Transliteration: pathéma

Definition: that which befalls one, a suffering, a passion

Usage: (a) **suffering, affliction**, (b) passion, emotion, (c) an undergoing, an enduring.

páthēma (from *pásxō*, "**the capacity to feel strong emotion, like suffering**") – properly, the capacity and privilege of experiencing strong feeling; *felt*, deep emotion, like agony, passion (ardent desire), suffering, etc.

[*páthēma* ("strong feeling") includes affliction (suffering), **which should always (ideally) result in knowing God's glory** – like going through difficulties (persecution, etc.) in *faith*. Note the *-ma* suffix, emphasizing the *end-result* (experiencing *strong feeling*).] <https://biblehub.com/greek/3804.htm>

2 Cor. 1:5 For as the **sufferings** of Christ abound in us, so our **consolation also aboundeth** by Christ.

6 And whether we be afflicted, ***it is for your consolation*** and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same **sufferings** which we also suffer: or whether we be **comforted, it is for your consolation** and salvation.

7 And our hope of you *is* stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the **sufferings**, so *shall ye be* also of the consolation.

Rom. 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.***

❖ Looking toward eternity helps us keep our trials in proper perspective.

B. The Parts of the Pain, 10:33

Heb. 10:33 Partly, whilst **ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions**; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

Original Word: θεατρίζω

Transliteration: theatrizó

Definition: to make a spectacle of

Usage: I make a public show of, expose to public shame.

theatrízō (from *théatron*, "theatre") – to ridicule, making a *public spectacle* out of someone, putting them on *exhibit* for *public jest* and *mockery* (used only in Heb 10:33).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2301.htm>

❖ Often Paul was subject to public ridicule for the cause of Christ.

❖ The “tools” of public ridicule are described as “reproaches and afflictions:”

Original Word: ὀνειδισμός

Transliteration: oneidismos

Definition: a **reproach**

Usage: reproach, reviling.

oneidismós (a masculine noun) – reproach (reviling); an insult aimed to *damage (disgrace) reputation*.

In the NT, *oneidismós* ("reproach") suggests *undeserved* condemnation, i.e. which does not "hold up" after the situation *is correctly (fully) understood*.

[(*óneidos*) focuses on the *personal feeling* of being disgraced, i.e. that goes along with bearing reproach.] <https://biblehub.com/greek/3680.htm>

Rom. 15:3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, **The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.**

1 Tim. 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; **lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.**

Heb. 11:26 **Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt:** for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Original Word: θλίψις

Transliteration: thlipsis

Definition: tribulation

Usage: persecution, **affliction**, distress, tribulation.

thlipsis – **properly, pressure (what constricts or rubs together), used of a narrow place that "hems someone in"; tribulation,** especially *internal pressure* that causes someone to feel confined (restricted, "without options").

thlipsis ("compression, tribulation") carries the challenge of coping with the *internal* pressure of a *tribulation*, especially when feeling there is "no way of escape" ("hemmed in").

[By contrast, (*stenoxōria*) focuses on the *external pressure* exerted by circumstances.]

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2347.htm>

Rom. 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Rom. 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?

Rom. 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

- ❖ When believers face “reproaches and afflictions,” personally, or “by association” – “... **whilst ye became companions of them that were so used,**” determination motivated by faith, identified with love for Christ, will produce the deliverance desired.

Jas. 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: **for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**

❖ The Holy Spirit moved the Apostle Paul to write to the church in Corinth and encourage them about facing the “...great **fight** of afflictions;”

2 Cor. 4:8 *We are* **troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;**

9 **Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;**

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.**

11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.**

❖ When facing such challenges during our lifetime “...**call to remembrance the former day**...” when it became clear that the Lord Jesus would NEVER leave us nor FORSAKE us!

Heb. 13:5b “...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

*When does one begin making such memories of encouragement?

2 Cor. 6:2(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: **behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**)

Conclusion

Rom. 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?

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

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

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

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.**