Scriptural References:

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

Psalm 3:3

Psalm 23

Psalm 27:4

Psalm 28:7

Psalm 32:8-10

Psalm 34:4,8,17-19

Psalm 37:23-24

Psalm 40:1-3

Psalm 42:5-6,11

Psalm 43:5

Psalm 46:1

Psalm 55:22

Psalm 90:17

Psalm 91

Psalm 103:1-6

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 121:1-8

Psalm 126:5-6

Proverbs 3:5-6

Proverbs 13:12

Proverbs 16:24

Proverbs 18:10

Proverbs 30:5

Isaiah 41:10

Isaiah 61:3

Jeremiah 29:11-12

Zephaniah 3:17

Matthew 11:28-30

Mark 11:24

John 10:28-29

John 14:1-4,27

John 16:7,33

Romans 8:6,28-31 Romans 15:4-5,13

1 Corinthians 1:9

1 Corinthians 10:13

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

2 Corinthians 5:17

Galatians 6:9-10

Ephesians 1:4

Ephesians 6:10-18

Philippians 3:13-14

Philippians 4:6-8,13

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

Hebrews 2:18

Hebrews 3:13

Hebrews 4:12

Hebrews 10:19-23,25

James 1:2-4

1 John 1:9

1 John 5:4

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Do you feel stressed, anxious and overwhelmed by the daily news and current events you are viewing on television today? Do you need a boost of comfort, hope, encouragement and inspiration in this evil and discouraging world?

If you answered yes to either of these two questions, you need to go to the right place for that special boost of encouragement and inspiration that you so desperately need, which is found in the pages of your Bible. The Bible is the ultimate source of real encouragement and inspiration. You won't find it anywhere else! You need to spend time in daily Bible reading. You will find inspirational scriptures about our true, eternal encouragement and living hope that comes from God, as He strengthens us in every good deed and word. God's word teaches us to encourage one another and build each other up in the faith.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ENCOURAGEMENT? With all the events happening in the world today, it is easy for our minds to become bombarded with negative thoughts. Whether you are stressed out, facing a hard day at work, heartache, feelings of hopelessness, health issues, financial problems, relationships that are causing you stress in your life, you will find many Bible verses that will help you cope in a wide variety of situations and circumstances, and will uplift us and give us hope in our lives, whenever we are feeling down, discouraged or distressed. If you are feeling the "weight of the world" on your shoulders, cast all your cares on Jesus, as only He is strong enough and able to carry the burden for you Ps 55:22; Mt 11:28-30; 1 Pe 5:7. If you are searching for peace, you will find soothing and tranquil scriptures that will comfort you. If you are searching for joy, you will find encouraging scriptures that will uplift your spirits. Focusing on the positive aspects of life, will help us to become more encouraged and inspired. Dwelling on the negative aspects of life, circumstances and events happening in the world, will plunge one deeper into discouragement. This is why it's so important that we make Bible reading a daily habit, and fill our minds with encouraging and inspiring thoughts, and our hearts with positive emotions. Scriptures will build positivity into our lives. God promises are trustworthy and true Numbers 23:19.

Throughout the Bible, we find that the writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write words of inspiration and encouragement. The Bible is filled with inspiring and encouraging scriptures. The best place to start filling your mind with inspirational scriptures is the Book of Psalms. It's important that you fill your mind with the truth of God's word and positive thoughts that will strengthen and uplift you. Focusing your mind on inspirational thoughts will help you to overcome fear, discouragement and despair. It helps to get our minds off of our circumstances.

Let's find out what the Bible says about finding encouragement from God. You will benefit from reading and meditating on these scriptures daily. Scriptures are from the King James Version Bible.

Here are just a few scriptures that really stand out to me as inspiring:

MEDITATE ON THE FOLLOWING BIBLE VERSES:

<u>Joshua 1:8-9</u> - This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

<u>Psalm 1:1-3</u> - Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season: his leaf also shall not wither: and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 5:12 - For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

Psalm 7:10 - My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.

<u>Psalm 7:17</u> - I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

 $\underline{\textit{Psalm 9:1}} \text{ - I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.}$

<u>Psalm 31:24</u> - Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

<u>Psalm 34:18</u> - The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalm 37:4 - Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

<u>Psalm 98:1</u> - O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

<u>Proverbs 2:7-8</u> - He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

<u>Proverbs 16:3</u> - Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

<u>Proverbs 10:28</u> - The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 - Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

<u>Isaiah 40:29-31</u> - He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

<u>Isaiah 54:17</u> - No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

<u>Jeremiah 32:19</u> - Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

Jeremiah 32:27 - Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Jeremiah 33:3 - Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

<u>Daniel 12:3</u> - And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Malachi 3:16-18 - Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

<u>Malachi</u> 4:2 - But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

<u>Matthew 7:7-8</u> - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 11:28 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mark 11:23-24 - For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

<u>Luke 10:19</u> - Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

<u>John 10:28-29</u> - And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Ephesians 3:20-21 - Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

<u>Matthew 19:26</u> - But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

<u>Romans 8:28</u> - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:31 - What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:37-39 - Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 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.

<u>1 Corinthians 2:9</u> - But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 - But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

<u>Ephesians 1:4</u> - According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

<u>Ephesians 3:20-21</u> - Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 - 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: 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 - But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

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.

<u>Hebrews 4:16</u> - Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1 John 4:4 - Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

WHY IS ENCOURAGEMENT SO IMPORTANT? The reason why scriptures emphasize the need for encouragement is primarily because it strengthens our faith. By encouraging one another daily, we build each other up in the faith Heb 3:13:1 Th 5:11. Also, our faith increases in proportion to how much time we spend in studying God's word Ro 10:17. Encouragement gives hope. Scripture was written for our instruction, to help us patiently endure and become encouraged to hold fast our faith and hope in Christ Rom 15:4. It is important that we search the scriptures diligently Ac 17:11:18:25. God's chastening should be regarded as corrective and instructive training. Trials and discipline are part of our spiritual development as God's children. Encouragement helps us during those difficult times of testing in our lives Heb 12:5.

Pleasant words are compared to a "honeycomb" which is "sweet to the soul" and "healing to the bones" <u>Pr 16:24</u>. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." Words of encouragement give life to a person. They can be soothing to one's soul <u>Pr 18:21</u>.

Jesus reassures us that no matter the troubles we face in the world, He is greater than all our troubles. His word of encouragement to us is that He has overcome the world <u>Jn 16:33</u> Without encouragement life becomes meaningless, and hope is useless. Encouragement gives us the will and strength to go on despite any circumstance or situation, because we trust in God's faithfulness and trustworthy promises <u>Nu 23:19</u>; <u>Ps 34:6</u>; 34:7.18; 37:40; 1 Cor 1:9.

It is also important to remember that we are fighting a spiritual battle in our lives. Doubt and discouragement are two of Satan's schemes, which he uses against the children of God. It is crucial that we put on the spiritual armor of God, according to Eph 6:10-18, which will help us to resist Satan's schemes, and keep our faith steadfast (Read Tract - 'You Can Be Set Free!'). Encouragement can protect our minds from believing lies ("deceitfulness of sin"), that would jeopardize our faith in God Heb 3:13. Encouragement helps us to enjoy abundant spiritual life Jn 10:10.