

“Don’t Quit!”

LESSON 8 – OUTLINE

I. One day I was reading through Scripture in Isaiah:

**Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.
Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not:
behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with
a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of
the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be
unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the
tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters
break out, and streams in the desert.**

Isaiah 35:3-6

- A. All of a sudden, the Holy Spirit reminded me of what Jesus had said to John’s disciples and how He’d spent an hour doing these miracles.
- B. In one hour’s time, Jesus did everything that was prophesied concerning the miracles He would do.
- C. Plus, He added raising someone from the dead.
- D. Then Jesus told John’s disciples to go back to him and tell him He had done all of these things and that he’ll be blessed if he would just believe.

II. John the Baptist knew the Scriptures.

- A. He had quoted from a number of passages all around this part of Isaiah (Is. 40:3).
- B. When John’s disciples delivered Jesus’ message to him, I believe the Holy Spirit connected what Isaiah had prophesied about the Messiah and what Jesus had just done.
- C. The light came on as John realized, *How could I doubt that this was the Messiah? He has performed everything the Word of God prophesied He would do. No other man has opened up blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, enabled the lame to walk, and caused dumb tongues to sing—especially not in one hour’s time. He even raised the dead.*
- D. I believe the Holy Spirit came in like a flood and washed away all of John the Baptist’s doubts.

- III. You might want an emotional boost like having somebody put their arm around you and cry with you.
 - A. I'm not saying no one should show you compassion.
 - B. But instead of wanting something emotional that will make you feel good today, but then tomorrow you'll need another emotional fix, you need to take the truth of God's Word.
 - C. Whether you feel like it or not, stand up and start saying, "I am an overcomer in Christ Jesus. I don't care what I feel like, what somebody else has said, or what has happened to me. I'm going to rise again. I am a victor and not a victim."
 - D. Start taking God's Word and applying it to your situation.
 - E. You start speaking the Word, and build yourself up.
- IV. John the Baptist had taken his eyes off of the Word, off of the truths that God had instilled in his heart.
 - A. Jesus referred him back to the Word, the Word that he was well acquainted with.
 - B. Eventually, Herod beheaded him.
 - C. But there was no whimpering, crying, or renouncing his beliefs.
 - D. John the Baptist stayed strong.
 - E. Regardless of how his emotions made him feel, he got his thoughts back on the truth.
- V. That really encourages me.
 - A. If I were to go by my emotions, there are times when I feel like running away.
 - B. There are times when I feel like giving up and quitting.
 - C. But I've learned to go by the Word and not by how I feel.
 - D. This truth has changed me, and it's worked in my life for decades.
 - E. When you get that kind of attitude and the Word of God begins to dominate you, then you will overcome doubt.
 - F. You'll be walking in faith.

VI. Faith is seldom a feeling.

- A. Very seldom do you just feel this surge of boldness.
- B. At times, you will walk in a gift of faith.
- C. However, most times, when I've seen great things happen in my life, I've stepped out in faith.
- D. My emotions were wavering, but I just chose not to go by them.
- E. I knew what God's Word says and ministered it from my heart.
- F. Then I stood on what the Word of God said, sometimes with my knees shaking.
- G. But that's faith.

VII. Some people think faith is having an absence of any problems, doubts, or fears.

- A. That's not true.
- B. It's just learning how to reject those things and not let them control you as you take a stand on the Word of God.

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LESSON 8 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Isaiah 35:3-6. What kind of heart should hear these things?
2. What shall break out in the wilderness?
 - A. A reed
 - B. Waters
 - C. Fiery serpents
 - D. A cloud by day
 - E. A sale
3. Read Matthew 11:4-6. Who was the Gospel preached to?
4. According to John 1:23, John was **“the _____ of one crying in the wilderness.”**
5. Read Isaiah 40:3. What was to be made straight in the desert?
6. Read Romans 10:17. **“Faith cometh by hearing”** just anything?
7. According to Ephesians 6:17, take salvation for a _____.
8. **“The sword of the _____, which is the _____ of God.”**
9. Read 1 Corinthians 15:57. Who is the victory through?
10. Read 1 John 5:4. When you are born of God, you overcome what?
11. Read Matthew 14:28-31. When Peter cried out to the Lord to save him, when did Jesus stretch forth His hand?
12. After Peter walked on the water and began to sink, what kind of faith did Jesus say he had?
 - A. Little faith
 - B. Mustard seed faith
 - C. Great faith
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
13. According to Galatians 5:22, **“the _____ of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.”**

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LESSON 8 – SCRIPTURES

ISAIAH 35:3-6

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. [4] Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. [5] Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. [6] Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

MATTHEW 11:4-6

Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: [5] The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. [6] And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

JOHN 1:23

He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

ISAIAH 40:3

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

ROMANS 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

EPHESIANS 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 JOHN 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

MATTHEW 14:28-31

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. [29] And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. [31] And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

GALATIANS 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.