



From Brother Phillip Hayes

Greetings Dear Saints,

I hope this issue of the Trumpet Messenger is a blessing! Each month we endeavor to bring you messages straight from God's Word that we feel will both inspire and challenge you to achieve your full potential in the Lord.

As always, Sister Glenda and I are endeavoring to do more for the Lord and His kingdom in this New Year. Jesus is still on the Throne and He has everything in His control! Remember, Jesus said, ". . . *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*" [Matthew 28:18]. And I might add, "*That Power is within us!*" (See Ephesians 3:19, 20).

As part of our efforts to distribute the Truth to as many as we can, we now have many preaching videos available for download on our YouTube channel. We were blessed to upload several of our 2025 Camp Meeting services. The channel can be accessed on your browser by typing in the following: www.youtube.com/@brotherhayes.

Also, I encourage you to order our FREE "Special Preaching Message" on CD that we offer each month. Be a blessing and share them with someone! It's a great way to encourage or win the lost!

Please visit our web site where you will find a treasure trove of videos, audio messages, written articles by Brother Hayes; plus photos and information concerning our ministry outreaches and history. You can access the web site at: www.WOFCI.com. To view the free videos, audio recordings and past articles click on MEDIA.

I want to thank those of you that enjoy the Trumpet Messenger and believe in our ministry for the Lord. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated!

God Bless You Abundantly! -Brother Hayes

IN TIMES OF REFLECTION

By: Phillip Hayes

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace"
[Ecclesiastes 3:1-8]

Our opening scriptures are found in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes and is attributed to King Solomon. The word Ecclesiastes means "Teacher" or "Preacher". In these verses the writer emphasizes there is a time for every purpose under the heaven. As one reads through the verses one cannot help but think there is also a time to reflect. First you might reflect on what each verse states; A time to be born, a time to die, a time to weep, a time to cry, and so forth.

Perhaps King Solomon was reflecting on his life when he penned the words we find in Ecclesiastes. No one can possibly answer that question, but when I read these verses, I tend to reflect on my own life. God has graciously given me a long life and I am very thankful for that. As I consider the past years of my life, I am careful not to dwell on past failures and disappointments. The reason I say this is because reflecting on your past can be very dangerous. Apostle Paul's advice was, *"forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before"*. Therefore, if you choose to reflect on your past, keep your focus on the victories God has given you rather than the failures.

All of us experience times of reflection. Some seldomly, but others tend to visit their past far too often.

As each New Year approaches multitudes make New Year's resolutions. Some of them will stay up until midnight to welcome in the New Year. Others stay up to make sure the old year leaves! After considering the past year, changes are desired for the New Year. Promises are made! "I'll quit smoking"; "I'll quit drinking coffee"; "I'll quit drinking"; "I'm going to make more money"; and the list goes on and on. Some folks will have one or two resolutions while others will have pages full of changes they want to make in their lives in the coming New Year.

Most of these resolutions will fail because people will allow their past to infect their present convictions and sabotage their future plans. This is why certain things that

refuse to be healed must be forsaken and forgotten. If you allow your past to continue invading your present and future life, you will never be free from the bondage of condemnation and discouragement that you have allowed your mind to dwell on.

There are people praising God in church every Sunday who lie awake at night in the privacy of their homes digging up old bones, picking at scars and reliving old memories of failures. Night after night they allow their thoughts to focus on past disappointments, failures, bad relationships and past sins they have committed. They allow Satan to infiltrate their minds to accept issues that can never be resolved! They continually suffer from condemnation and discouragement. They wallow in self-pity hating all the bad decisions and things they have done. When these dark thoughts of the past are allowed to continue, they take up residence in your head and dominate you. Since it is impossible for anyone to change their past, you become a prisoner of the past!

Please consider what I am saying! Prisoners are in bondage! The devil may be able to insinuate something horrible you have done, and he can certainly condemn you of your past, but YOU must not allow him to do this by entertaining what he suggests. You are the one that is guilty of allowing these thoughts to continue.

I want you to see the reason multitudes of Christians are battling unbelief, depression, condemnation and discouragement. Think about it, all four of these symptoms

are related to one source. You may think it's the devil, but it is not! Satan and all his horde of demons can only suggest evil things to you. They cannot make you do anything! As a born again Christian, you have power over the devil. *"Submit yourself to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you" [James 4:7].* Again, the enemy is YOU because it's your own thoughts that are robbing you from the joy and blessings that God intended for you to have. It is imperative that you forsake and forget the past and awaken to the fact that your past doesn't exist anymore!

I want you to know that God's Grace has set you free from depression, condemnation and discouragement! Why entertain Satan's suggestions any longer?

Quit condemning yourself! Stop doubting God's Grace! Just admit that it isn't God or the devil that is the problem, it's YOU! Ask God to help you cast down all those negative evil thoughts! He will help you! God has made you free! Accept it!

I believe it's up to us as individuals! You can live a wretched life if you want or you can live an abundant life without condemnation by changing the way you think.

When we reflect on our past, present or future we must always allow the Word of God to be our guide as it is filled with many great true stories of men and women that failed yet were also victorious in impossible situations. Let's look at condemnation and discouragement a little closer as I believe you will see how these negative emotions tie in with all we have learned so far.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" [Proverbs 29:18]. This is the very first thing we must learn! You have got to have a vision. A vision is looking forward, not behind! When you have a vision, you have a purpose! It's good to evaluate your present situation in life. We can all find improvement! Consider the areas in your life that need improvement and ask God to help you. The Holy Spirit will help you overcome whatever hinders you. Once you have determined not to allow your mind to dwell in the past, you will be on your way to recovery. I believe God's purpose for your life will then be more evident to you as you regain everything the enemy has stolen from you.

However, until you recognize that you are your worst enemy you will never be the overcomer God has called you to be. People blame their troubles and depression on the devil because they won't accept responsibility and refuse to keep what they cannot change in the past! God has given you Faith! Faith in God's forgiveness will empower you to forget the things in your past!

Faith is the opposite of unbelief. These two emotions cannot survive in the same body! If left unchecked, one will eventually obliterate the other. Remember, unbelief is a sister to condemnation and condemnation is a sister of discouragement. They are all related!

Believe me my friends, God has given you sufficient Faith to deliver you from unbelief, condemnation and discouragement. Don't let anyone discourage you!

I believe God wants His people speaking faith and not discouragement. He wants us to be an encourager, not a discourager!

Many a time, we have set our face toward the mission field and those very close to us would begin discouraging us. "Don't you know they are robbing and killing people over there?" "Don't you know they are kidnapping Americans?" "Don't you know a plane just crashed last week?" "Don't you know it's miserable there and the water will make you sick?" "You need to get some immunization shots, disease is rampant over there!" "Don't you know it's dangerous?"

These were all well intended comments by good people. However, if we had listened to them and allowed those negative statements to reside in our thoughts, we may have never left our comfort zone.

I realize bad things do happen to good people. However, the Word of God is where we gain our strength to press on no matter the circumstance. *"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 8:28]. I am convinced all things will eventually work to my good! God can turn your trial into a blessing!

Most everyone has heard that, "David Encouraged himself in the Lord". The Bible says that David was a man after God's own heart. He was a great warrior and everyone knows the story of David and the giant. He was

ordained of God! But bad things did happen to him and there is little doubt he had reason to be discouraged many times in his life. One of the most remarkable events in his life was at a place called Ziklag.

Ziklag had been given to David and he and his men lived there along with their wives and children. While David and his men were away from the city the Amalekites invaded Ziklag and burned it with fire. They also took all the wives and children captive. You can read about this in First Samuel, chapter thirty. I will begin with 1Samuel chapter thirty, verse three: *“So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 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”.*

David and his men were greatly distressed and for good reason. They had lost everything! David's men had followed him faithfully and were devoted to his leadership, but this situation was overbearing. They blamed David for what had happened! But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God!

Think about that! Everything was lost! His home, his wives, his sons and daughters; all gone! But David reached out to his God and encouraged himself. I believe he knew and had faith that God could restore everything he lost. He wasn't going to allow the devastation he saw with his eyes destroy his faith in God. He had beaten the odds before! No doubt, he began to remember his triumphs over the bear, the lion and Goliath the giant. He knew it was the hand of God that delivered his adversaries to him and God could do it again.

"And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all" [1Samuel 30:8].

David didn't give in to the thoughts of despair of what had taken place. He turned his attention away from his troubled mind and enquired of the Lord. Because of this, David and his men recovered everything!

When trouble begins to overwhelm you, do what David did! Don't give in to discouragement! Encourage yourself in the Lord and go to Him in prayer! He hasn't changed. He is still with you!

We need to follow the examples of the men of God in the Bible and encourage one another.

Look how Moses encouraged Joshua, *"And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn*

unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed” [Deuteronomy 31:7-8]. The word dismayed means, discouraged, demoralized, depressed. God said, don’t be discouraged, I will be with thee, neither will I forsake thee.

Remember, we also have a word from the Lord. Jesus said, *“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”* (See Hebrews 13:5).

Joshua encouraged the people by giving them the same word that God gave him. *“And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight” [Joshua 10:25].*

God has and will always fight the battle for His people! *“And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's” [2 Chronicles 20:15].* It doesn’t matter how big your problems are, God is bigger!

Don’t forget what we have learned from God’s Word. Forget the past and press forward in faith believing the best is yet before you! God has a great plan for your life!

