

==== *The* ====

100

MOST

ENCOURAGING

VERSES

==== *of the* ====

BIBLE

TROY SCHMIDT



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For Jim, Donna, and Tami

My dad, mom, and sister, who all battled cancer
and encouraged me by their strength

INTRODUCTION

We all get down at times. Sometimes it's our fault. Other times it's not.

No matter who we blame, it still hurts. We wonder if it will always be this way. Will the pain ever stop? Can a solution ever be found?

We see what others go through and we think, for a moment, that our situation is not that bad, but right now our situation is real and it hurts.

Thoughts go through our mind. Negative thoughts. Ungodly thoughts.

God doesn't love me any longer.

God doesn't care.

God can't do anything about my situation.

All not true. God loves you, He cares, and He can do something. Maybe not right now, but sometime . . . sooner or later.

In the meantime, He offers encouragement through His Word to calm our spirits struggling with doubt and worry.

God has been in the business of encouraging His people from the first sin in Genesis all the way to the last word in Revelation. He always offers truth from His perspective, usually by saying

“Trust me, I got this.” There may be adjustments we need to make, but mostly we just need to stop worrying and give the outcome to God.

The key to all encouragement is trust in God.

Know He loves you.

Trust He cares.

Believe He’s doing all He can.

These one hundred verses cover a wide range of encouragement God spoke throughout the Bible. They span a variety of situations experienced in over a thousand years of Bible history. Guess what . . . people then struggled and worried over the same things we struggle and worry about today.

So use these verses to bring encouragement to yourself and others. They are just words on the paper until you apply them to your life and know God is speaking directly to you.

Troy Schmidt
Windermere, FL
March 2015

GENESIS 9:16

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.

After every torrential storm there's a rainbow. Rainbows are caused by the reflection and refraction of water droplets illuminated by the sun, thereby creating a spectrum of light in the sky. Rainbows appear during the transition of rain to sun. After a dark and torrential storm, a rainbow is beautiful to look at.

God used this rainbow reminder to tell His people that He won't break a promise. The most devastating natural disaster had just occurred: the total and complete flooding of the earth, wiping out all human and animal life except for one relatively small remnant—Noah, his family, and the animals in the ark.

He promised Noah, and every descendant after him, that He would never do that again. As long as we see rainbows in the sky, we can know another flood like that won't strike again.

When we face devastating storms, we must remember that God's promises also shine like rainbows. God promises His love and mercy. Jesus promised to never leave us. He promised a place for us, where there is no crying or pain. The Holy Spirit is promised to intercede for us.

Those promises are beautiful to remember as we recover from the after-effects of our storms. Trust them. They are as evident and as real as a rainbow in the sky.

GENESIS 21:6

And Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me.” (NKJV)

There are many kinds of laughs. A polite laugh. A gentle snicker. A fake expression.

But a real gut-level, rib-hurting laugh, those are hard to come by.

A laugh is caused by a twisted surprise. You never expect a laugh. Someone does something unusual or strange or odd and you react with an emotional response that makes you feel good, forgetting your troubles for a moment.

Sarah learned she would have a child in old age: her eighties! That was a surprise. Unusual. Crazy! People her age should be retiring and settling in with the great-grandchildren. Yet she had never had a child in her life, and now God decided that she should become pregnant in her eighties.

That’s hilarious.

In times of despair, God can do things to make you laugh. Sarah found the humor in her desperation. She had given up hope; now she offered up laughs.

Look for the laughter in your situation. Not a polite giggle or a fake “ha.” Laugh at the unusual things God is doing and get ready for the uproarious surprises.

GENESIS 21:17

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.”

Hagar was a single mom, lost in the desert with her newborn son, Ishmael. Hagar had followed Sarah’s orders and had sex with Abraham to give birth to a son, then gave up the child for adoption to her masters. After Isaac was born to Sarah and Abraham, Sarah didn’t like Hagar’s attitude and had Abraham send the other mother and child away.

Kicked out. Into the streets. The situation changed and their services were no longer needed. Hagar and Ishmael now wandered the desert, preparing to die, when an angel showed up and said God heard their cry.

If you’re wandering right now, alone and hurting, God hears your cry, too. He knows where you are and what you are going through. God knows what happened and who is to blame, so you don’t need to dwell on that. You have a need right now, like feeding your children or taking care of your physical needs.

God knows. And He’s there. Hagar didn’t even cry out for God. God heard the child’s cries himself and He showed up. God doesn’t need an invitation to help. He’s already there.

You never wander alone.

GENESIS 22:17

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies. . . . (ESV)

I will surely bless you.” Don’t you love the assurance of that? Of course God will bless you. It’s who He is.

Here, God spoke to Abraham. Abraham was faithful. He packed up and followed God wherever He said. Abraham did not withhold his son on the altar. Of course Abraham received blessing. But what about us?

God rewards faithfulness. Faithfulness leads to blessing. When you do everything God wants you to do, you receive a blessing. God wants to multiply that kind of faith inside you for generations to come. Seeing those generations multiply in numbers and faith is the greatest blessing to you and God.

As long as you are faithful, there is a blessing to be found. Not just one, but many more to come.

GENESIS 39:23

The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Joseph, son of Jacob, was framed and sent to prison for a crime he didn't commit. End of his story? End of his life? No longer able to be used by God?

No way. God was just getting started with Joseph. Trapped in a place with no freedom, Joseph impressed the warden and interpreted dreams, catching the attention of Pharaoh. With four walls around him, Joseph could do things that changed the entire country and the course of history. In the worst of places, the best of things happened to him.

Success cannot be confined by circumstances. It is unleashed by those willing to be used by God wherever they are.

God is with those who are trapped. You may be in the worst of places, but God is still working. In a place of no freedom, you are free to work for God.

Don't let the walls define you or constrain you. Define your situation by what God can do where you are.

GENESIS 50:20

But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. (NKJV)

Joseph—separated from his family because of his brothers’ jealousy, tossed in a pit, handed over to slave traders, sold as a slave, thrown into prison for years—looked back at it all years later and said, “It was all for good.”

During that difficult time, God used Joseph to interpret a dream for Pharaoh and saved Egypt and many people from a serious famine. That pit stop and slave job were all steps in the process to save lives.

We need to look at the things that harm us and see them not for just the moment, but how they play out in the long run.

Joseph, lying in that pit, didn’t think, *Wow, this is going to turn out great!*

Joseph, rotting in jail, didn’t think, *I bet I’m going to save lots of lives.*

There is always purpose to the pain. What is that purpose? We probably don’t know at the time. We must trust at the time that God will use this tragedy somehow.