

Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS



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THANKS DEFEATS DISCOURAGEMENT

Dr. Vanessa Dantzer Ussery | April 20, 2016

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!" Psalm 136:1 NKJV

I admit it. Sometimes when things are not going smoothly, it is not my immediate response to express thanks. I will often express my dislike for the situation and quickly express to the Lord my desire for Him to move quicker and remedy the situation. You could actually say my words are founded from the seat of discouragement. Discouragement is not found within God and He does not dwell where discouragement resides. In the heavenlies, where He abides, there is only room for adoration and expressions of praise and glory by the angels, who eternally acknowledge God for His greatness and majesty. The sound of heaven is one of victory and admiration because of the awesomeness of God.



Discouragement is a tool of Satan that he uses on mankind, and particularly Christians, as it reduces the flow of praise and thanksgiving to God. He always aims to find a way to distract us from being thankful and offering praise to the Lord. Although the host of heaven perpetually praises Him, we are the ones who can offer praise and thanks. The Lord is worthy of both of these. However, offering Him thanks is something we can do best as we are the recipients of the grace and mercy of God every day, not the angels. That's because we are the ones who

have been redeemed, and let the redeemed of the Lord say so. Our best way to say so is to say thanks to the Lord for all He's done for us. When we become discouraged this is removed from our minds. Our focus becomes centered on that which is bothering us and we lose sight of the problem fixer.

"The devotional book Springs in the Valley tells of a man who found a barn where Satan kept his seeds ready to be sown in the human heart. He found that the seeds of discouragement were more numerous than the others and he learned that those seeds could be made to grow almost anywhere. But when Satan was questioned, he reluctantly admitted that there was one place in which he could never get them to thrive. 'And where is that?' asked the man. Satan replied sadly, 'In the heart of a grateful person.'" (Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, Springs in the Valley, Los Angeles: Cowman Publications, Inc., 1939, p250).

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