

FIGHTING DISCOURAGEMENT

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SECOND EBENEZER CHURCH

FIGHTING DISCOURAGEMENT

- ▶ Domains, Realms, Territory
 - ▶ Satan's intent is to infiltrate and occupy. We must guard the gateways and our vulnerabilities.

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Proverbs 4:23-26

- ²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
- ²⁴ Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.
- ²⁵ Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.
- ²⁶ Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

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- ▶ Satan is like an approaching starved dog. If a person has neither bread or meat, it will move away when you command it to go away. But if there is a steak in your hands and the dog is hungry, it will attack you and your words are meaningless.

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Disappointment vs. Discouragement

▶ *David fights discouragement*

II Samuel 12:13-23

¹³ And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

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- 14** Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.
- 15** And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.
- 16** David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

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- ¹⁷ And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.
- ¹⁸ And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

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- 19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.
- 20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

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- 21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.
- 22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live?
- 23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

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► *Jonah fights discouragement*

Jonah 4

- 1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.
- 2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

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- 3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.
- 4 Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?
- 5 So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

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- 6 And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

- 7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

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- 8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.
- 9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.

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- ¹⁰ Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:
- ¹¹ And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?