

When God **ENCOURAGES** His Children

Acts 23:1-11

**Pew Bible
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- Maybe today you are battling discouragement. Please know that every believer's heart can be encouraged by the Lord. God will encourage you as he did Paul. How does God encourage His children? Verse 11 is our key verse.

God encourages us:

First, by reassuring us of His continued _____

- *"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me..."*
2 Timothy 4:16-17a
- When we go through severe trials and deep valleys, Satan tempts us to doubt God's presence, which leads to feelings of hopelessness and total despair.
- *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* **Hebrews 13:5**
- *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."* **Ephesians 4:30**

Second, by providing an inner _____ (despite circumstances)

- Did you know that joy is part of our spiritual birthright as a child of God?
- *"And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you."*
John 16:22

- *"Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation."* **2 Corinthians 7:4**
- Joy has nothing to do with our circumstances, but rather our _____ in circumstances. Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Joy comes from within and is therefore available to us _____ day of our lives.

Third, by always remembering the _____ we have done for Him

- Sometimes, when life's circumstances are bad, we are tempted to think that God has forgotten the work we have done for Him. But God _____ forgets. Matthew 25:35-40
- *"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."* **Hebrews 6:10**

Fourth, by providing _____ opportunities to serve Him (despite past failures)

- Satan can tempt us to concentrate on our past failures and sins to the point that he convinces us that we are no longer _____ by God. This is a lie from Satan.
- God's grace can restore us to useful service for His glory! Just because you may have failed, it does not make you a failure. Your identity is not tied to your _____, but to whom God has made you in Christ!