



Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati
105 West Seventh Street
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Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

Down—But Not Out!

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” 1 Corinthians 1:3-4 NASB

We welcome our guest speaker, Sister Tracie Woods of the Tabernacle Bible Church and all of our visiting friends to this glorious worship celebration. We are blessed by your presence. Congratulation to Sister Felicia Mazion-Bryant and Sister Melanie Montgomery, the 2019 Chairperson and Co-Chairperson; and to all of the women of Union for a job well done! I thank God for you and your labor of love for the sake of Christ’s Kingdom.

As I pondered today’s theme, I was led to reflect on some thoughts by Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe in his book entitled, *Be Encouraged-- God Can Turn Your Trials into Triumphs*.

How we handle the difficulties of life will depend largely on what kind of character we have; for what life does to us depends on what life finds in us. Discouragement is no respecter of persons. It affects most people regardless of status or position. It attacks the rich as well as the poor, the saved as well as the unsaved. Even the great Apostle Paul was “pressed out of measure” and “despaired even of life” (2 Cor. 1:8). As great as he was in character and ministry, Paul was human just like the rest of us and was subject to discouragement.

One of the key words in his letter to the Corinthians is comfort or encouragement. What was Paul’s secret to victory when he experienced pressures and trials? His secret was the amazing grace of God. When you find yourself discouraged and ready to quit, get your attention off of yourself and focus it on God. Paul tells us how we can find encouragement in Jehovah God in the midst of our trials with three simple reminders.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20





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1. **Praise God for who He is!** Praise Him for what He has done in the past, what He is doing right now in the present and the blessings that He will provide in the future.
2. **Praise God because He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!** It is because of Jesus Christ that we can call God “Father” and even approach Him as His children. God sees us in His Son and loves us as He love His Son (John 17:26). Whatever the Father did for Jesus when He was ministering on earth, He is able to do for us today. We are precious to Him and He will not allow the pressures of life to destroy us.
3. **Praise Him because He is the God of all comfort!** God puts strength into our hearts so we can face our trials and triumph over them. God can encourage us by His Word and through His Spirit, but sometimes He uses other believers to give us the encouragement we need.

God places people in our lives on purpose so we can help them succeed and help them become all that He created them to be. Most people will not reach their full potential without someone else believing in them. Everywhere we go we should be lifting others as we climb, challenging them to reach new heights. Someone needs to know that we believe in them, that we’re there for them, that we think that they have what it takes to succeed. God is counting on us to bring out the best in our families, our friends, the outcasts and the downtrodden. Amen.

“As a kingdom woman, you have been called to take care of yourself, support you family, raise your children and honor your husband, but you have also been called to make a maximum impact for God’s kingdom. You are not to deny the other purposes in your life, but you are not to limit yourself to them either. A kingdom woman has a destiny that extends beyond her home—the legacy she leaves with your community and possibly even her nation and the world beyond.”

Kingdom Woman by `Dr. Tony Evans

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