

Personal sharing by Erin Fenton (all statements below are originally hers)...

Dealing with the Reality of Personal Discouragement

1. **PROTECT** your heart.

[PROVERBS 4:20-25 (NIV)]

Satan is a very real, very present, and very dangerous enemy.
You are not too insignificant for him to attack.
And sometimes, his battle plan is simply to hurt your heart.

II CORINTHIANS 11:1-3 (NIV)

GENESIS 3:1-8 (NIV)

2. Believe and **DECLARE** that God is close to the brokenhearted.

[PSALM 34:18; PSALM 147:3 (NIV)]

When the battle is darkest and thickest, God really does feel absent and uncaring. Don't minimize that or pretend it's not so. It feels very scary and very painful and even brings anger at a perceived betrayal.

Try to see it for the lie that it is; recognize that it's part of Satan's battle plan.

And looking back from a distance, you really can see how God was so close and so loving all along.

3. Put on your **NEW SELF**.

[EPHESIANS 4:17-24 (NIV)]

Our society makes much of the idea of being true to self, and many people use that as a reason to follow their feelings out of a marriage, or a score of other places. But as Christ-following women, we have our sin nature and we are a new creation all at once. You can't be true to both of them.

God tells us to put on the new self and sometimes that means choosing to do acts of love and speak words of love, despite our worst feelings.

And please believe that this pleases God. So much so that He will eventually change and bless your heart giving you the feelings to match your words and actions.

4. Be aware of the **SPIRITUAL BATTLE**.

[EPHESIANS 6:10-18 (NIV)]

Learn all you can about spiritual warfare; Satan and angels and demons...

learn it from the only source you can trust 100% - the Bible.

Surround yourself with people who are not blind to this war raging around us and in us.

Most of all, pray, pray, pray, pray! Pray for discernment, protection, knowledge about how to fight, etc.

5. **FOCUS** on Jesus.

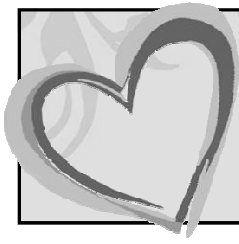
[HEBREWS 12:1-13 (NIV)]

It's not about the battle. It's not about your whole life as a broad war.

It's not even about the bigger war of all of history, of mankind.

It's about the One true Hero in all of it, Jesus Christ. It's about His glory and His love for you.

As hard as it is to do in the midst of battle, when your pain and your fear seem so big, try to keep your focus on God and off of self. Battles will come. You will be wounded deeply. Trust the God who really is the God of healing and redemption and love. Realize that these personal qualities of His will shine brightest through your scars.



The Winds of Discouragement

A word from the Lord—December 2006

“The winds of temptation are blowing – they are torrential winds of severe discouragement blasting God’s people with the intent of damaging even those whose lives are built on a strong foundation. Pray. Pray for awareness that My people will recognize the source of the storm they find themselves in. It’s a mental and emotional storm instigated by the evil one, the father of lies. He is sending a message of deceit upon the wind currents of the storm and the lie he is perpetuating is, “It’s time to give up!” He goes on to whisper deceitful words, “You’ve tried everything, just give up! You’ve tried so hard to do the right thing and it made no difference, just give up! It’s no use. Give up on the person you’ve been praying for. Give up on the relationship you’ve been trying to reconcile. Give up on that sin or habit that you long to conquer. Just give up!”

In the midst of the lie is one more subtle but deadly temptation, “Give up on God!” As the winds grow stronger and the temptation swells, My people will still go through the motions of being My own. They’ll go to church, say their necessary prayers, look like a Christian on the outside but on the inside they will be mad and offended at Me. Their hearts will be hardening without a notice, including their own.

Pray. Pray for courage and strength to press on. Pray for a revelation of what is happening so that My loved ones can make a vow to never, never give up. Pray for ‘truth in the inmost being’ of My children so that they can recognize their offense toward Me and repent. Pray for strength within relationships to see the warning signs of an eroding heart of flesh that is becoming hard and losing its tenderness toward the Holy Spirit, and pray for a new found courage to speak truth to one another.

Pray that a fresh new wind of My Spirit will blow upon My people and instead of destruction pray that it will bring a desire for repentance that leads to humility. Humility that leads to heart transformation. Transformation that leads to new life. Pray that My followers will get a glimpse of the price I paid for them to come home to the Father so that they too might be willing to wait and not give up on others who desperately need to come home as well. Pray for an outpouring of love, the love that flowed from My veins onto the cross of Calvary, a love that was born out of heart-wrenching obedience to the will of the Father. Pray that people will be willing to look upon Me and therefore, NOT GIVE UP.

There is a wind blowing My child, pray that it will be the wind of My Spirit that people allow into their lives and not the wind of despair. Pray.”