

# ENCOURAGEMENT

**I Thessalonians 5:11 [NLT]** – *So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*

- **Encourage [Dictionary]** – to inspire with courage, spirit, or confidence.

**Ahithophel: [II Samuel 15, 16 & I Chronicles 27]**

- **His name** – “my brother is foolish.”
  - A wise counselor to King David. Bathsheba’s grandfather.
  - Chose Absalom over King David. His counsel went sour. Committed suicide.
- **The Point:** some “encouragers” don’t have your best interest at heart.

## David

**I Samuel 30:6** – *Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.*

- **Other translations:**
  - **KJV:** “*But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.*”
  - **AMP:** *But David encouraged and strengthened himself in the Lord his God.*
  - **NLT:** *But David found strength in the LORD his God.*
  - **MSG:** *David strengthened himself with trust in his GOD.*
- **“strengthened”** – to strengthen oneself; to put forth strength, use one’s strength; to withstand; to hold strongly with.

**What attributes made David successful?**

- **Psalm 119:78** – *Let the proud be ashamed, for they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; but I will meditate on Your precepts.*
- **Psalm 138:2 [AMP]** – *I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth and faithfulness; for You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all Your name!*

**He didn’t take offense.**

**He turned to the Lord his God.**

- **Psalm 40:1-3 [AMP]** – *I waited patiently and expectantly for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup> He drew me up out of a*

horrible pit [a pit of tumult and of destruction], out of the miry clay (froth and slime), and set my feet upon a rock, steadying my steps and establishing my goings. <sup>3</sup> And He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many shall see and fear (revere and worship) and put their trust and confident reliance in the Lord.

### He sought direction from God.

- **vs. 7, 8** – Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech’s son, “Please bring the ephod here to me.” And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. <sup>8</sup>So David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?” And He answered him, “Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all.”
- **Note:** the ephod had a breastplate with the Urim & Thummim.

### “Pursue, overtake and recover all.”

**Pursue** – chase, dog, attend closely upon, aim to secure.

- **I Timothy 6:12** – “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”
  - “lay hold” – to attain; to take hold of.

**Overtake** – reach, take hold upon, to be able to secure, have enough; attainment, achievement, procurement; the completion of **pursue**.

- **Isaiah 35:10** – “And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”
  - Same as “overtake”
- **Galatians 5:1 [CEV]** – “Christ has set us free! This means we are really free. Now hold on to your freedom and don’t ever become slaves of the Law again.”

**Recover All** – to snatch away, rescue, plunder; to deliver from enemies or troubles or death; to deliver from sin and guilt.

- **Dictionary:** to get back or regain; to regain one's health, strength, composure, balance, etc., after illness, trouble, disturbance, or the like; to regain a former and better state or condition.
- **Exodus 3:22** – “But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”