

The Garage Sale

I once heard a story about a Garage Sale. The Garage Sale advertisement promised the availability of highly effective tools against the Saints of God. Many showed up to see what was being gotten rid of that day. They came from all around to see the tools so often used to trip up the Called of God. Tools sold almost as quickly as they were placed on the display tables. You see, people are always looking for ways to bring down God's people.

Prices had carefully been marked on each tool:

ANGER: \$100 RESENTMENT: \$400 HATRED: \$600, etc., etc.

Anger was selling fairly low . . . so common, so plain, so effective. Greed brought a big price, and Pride drove bids to high levels. The jealousy tool was certainly a hot item. Lust, as always, was at a bargain-basement price.

There were tools that made it easy to tear others down to use them as stepping-stones; some tools were used to magnify one's own importance; and, others, used a different way, could be used to belittle others.

There were an assortment of gardening implements to help one's pride to grow by leaps and bounds. Then there was the rake of scorn, the shovel of jealousy, and the ever-present tools of gossip, back-biting, selfishness, and apathy. All were pleasing to the eye and came complete with fabulous promises and guarantees of prosperity.

As he browsed, one visitor noticed two well worn, non-descript tools on a table in one corner. He found it curious that those two tools had no price tags. When he asked why, he was told it was because they are used so much. In fact, if they were not so plain looking, people might see them for what they truly were, he was told.

This pleased the bargain shopper. He snatched up the tools and held them to his chest. With a glint in his eye, he asked, "How much for these?"

"I'm sorry, those tools aren't for sale," he was told.

Without hesitation, the man said, "I'll pay you any amount!"

With narrowed eyes and a hiss, he was told again that those tools were not for sale, nor would they ever be! They were, by far, the most useful tools used to battle the Saints of God! In fact, without those two tools, the work of defeating those who are Followers of Christ, would not be half as effective. Those two tools, alone, defeat many who have a relationship with God.

Disappointed, the man looked once more at the worn and well-used tools, then slowly placed them back on the table in the corner. With almost a whisper, he said, “If I can’t buy them, would you at least tell me their names?”

With a wicked grin, the man was told one was Doubt and the other was Discouragement — which work when nothing else will.

“Those two tools are more useful than any of the others against the Saints of God. When a victim cannot be brought down with the rest of the tools, doubt and discouragement work every time. With those tools alone, many Followers of Christ can be defeated, and they open the door for the other tools to become effective.

Perplexed, the old man wondered out loud, “What’s so special about those tools?”

“Nothing paralyzes a person, nothing stops someone in their tracks like discouragement and doubt, resulting in hopelessness. Discouragement and Doubt are no respecters of persons. They keep the unemployed, unemployed; the homeless, homeless; the sick, sick.

“They can even draw the most powerful ministry to its knees. When overcome with discouragement and doubt that leads to hopelessness, persons cannot pray, they cannot worship, and they become a victim of their environment. Discouragement and doubt drain their victims of courage, vision, faith, expectation, and the will to make a difference in the kingdom of God. If people get discouraged and full of doubt, they are successfully neutralized. They are then left with only enough energy to feel hopeless and sorry for themselves.”

- Anonymous

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

Hebrews 10:35, 36 - Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

2 Corinthians 4:8,9 - We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

Isaiah 40:31 - But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.