



## ***Be Encouraged, Part VI***

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**Sermon Notes from June 28, 2009**

### **Win Over Worry! -- Focus**

- It is hard to be encouraged when challenges of life continue to come at you.
- It is difficult to be encouraged when you have discouraging people around you.
- It is impossible to be encouraged when you have **unconfessed** sin in your life.

### **FOCUS: is the center of attention in a discourse.**

- bull's eye, center, core, cynosure, focal point, headquarters\*, heart, hub, limelight\*, locus, meeting place, nerve center\*, point of convergence, polestar, seat, spotlight, target

### **The source of my encouragement should be God!**

- I should not be focused on:
  - people
  - problems
  - past
- Worry is the wall we hit that shows us the faith we built is not bigger than the wall of doubt we built.
- You are encouraged when you know:
  - plan
  - your purpose
  - provided for
- You are discouraged when you don't have a:
  - plan
  - your purpose
  - provided for

### **Win Over Worry! -- Focus**

#### **Isaiah 26:3-4 (Amplified Bible)**

3 You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind [both its inclination and its character] is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on



You, and hopes confidently in You. 4So trust in the Lord (commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him) forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock [the Rock of Ages].

### **Isaiah 26:3-4 (The Message)**

People with their **minds set on you**, you keep completely whole, Steady on their feet, because they **keep at it and don't quit. Depend on God and keep at it** because in the Lord God you have a sure thing.

### **Matthew 6:31-34 (Contemporary English Version)**

31 Don't worry and ask yourselves, "Will we have anything to eat? Will we have anything to drink? Will we have any clothes to wear?" 32 Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things. Your Father in heaven knows that you need all of these. 33 But **more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants.** Then the other things will be yours as well. 34 Don't worry about tomorrow. It will take care of itself. You have enough to worry about today.

### **Philippians 3:13-14 (The Message)**

12-14 I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, **but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus.** I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

### **Philippians 3:13-14 (New Living Translation)**

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, **but I focus on this one thing:** Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

### **Luke 12:28-34 (The Message)**

25-28 "Has anyone by fussing before the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? If fussing can't even do that, why fuss at all? Walk into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They don't fuss with their appearance—but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them. If God gives such attention to the wildflowers, most of them never even seen, don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?

29-32 "What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. **Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions.** You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be



afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself.

33-34"Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bankrobbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

**Hebrews 6:12 (Amplified Bible)**

12In order that you may not grow disinterested and become [spiritual] sluggards, but imitators, behaving as do those who through faith (by their leaning of the entire personality on God in Christ in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) and by practice of patient endurance and waiting are [now] inheriting the promises.