

## John Rohrer – The Seven Friends of Discouragement

- John Rohrer lives in Nashville, Tennessee and is a Prophetic Representative for Every Nation Ministries
- He considers himself to be an “International Liaison” – his God-given role is to keep everyone within Every Nation Ministries together
- John Rohrer has never been in a nation he couldn’t live in, and he’s never been in a city he couldn’t live in
  - He just loves people too much
  - He recognizes that people are just people, no matter where they live

### Friends of Discouragement

- It is God’s desire that we be encouraged in life, He even commands it in the Bible:

## Joshua 1:6-9 (New International Version)

<sup>6</sup> "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. <sup>7</sup> Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

- Notice that He mentions the need to be “very courageous”, not just courageous; this is good advice because there are situations in life in which we certainly need to be very courageous
  - The only place you will find this “very courage” is in God’s Word
  - This verse also acknowledges that we will need to be active participants in life’s triumphs, not just observers
  - John Rohrer notes that Canadians like to participate! We don’t just sit back and watch; we like to be part of the action!
- Why should we be strong and courageous?
    - So that we can fulfill our God-given destinies
    - So that we can do great exploits

*Courage is good; it is a whole lot better than anything else  
you can have when you are in trouble!*

## Numbers 21 (New International Version)

### *Arad Destroyed*

<sup>1</sup> When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming along the road to Atharim, he attacked the Israelites and captured some of them. <sup>2</sup> Then Israel made this vow to the LORD: "If you will deliver these people into our hands, we will totally destroy their cities." <sup>3</sup> The LORD listened to Israel's plea and gave the Canaanites over to them. They completely destroyed them and their towns; so the place was named Hormah.

### *The Bronze Snake*

<sup>4</sup> They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

- It is clear in this verse that the Israelites became discouraged, and that they let this discouragement get the best of them
- The big problem with discouragement is that it has friends – seven of them – and these friends manifest themselves in the following symptoms:
  - 1. Grumbling and Complaining
  - 2. Self-pity
  - 3. Dissatisfaction with life
  - 3. Becoming judgmental
  - 4. Feeling alone/forsaken
  - 5. Being cynical, critical, and negative
  - 6. Growing depressed
  - 7. Feeling utterly hopeless
- If you get to the place where you're so discouraged that you are experiencing these things, you could be in trouble

*If you learn anything from this message, learn that discouragement is your mortal enemy.*

- What does it mean to be discouraged?
  - To be discouraged is to be void of courage.
  
- How to avoid/combat discouragement:
  - Surround yourself with people that will recognize when you become discouraged and will commit to praying/encouraging you when you need it
  - Encourage others, and allow others to encourage you. Learn to be grateful for encouragement that other give you
  - Pray together with friends, family, and people that you know
  - Remember that you have a God-given destiny!!!

*Every one of us has a destiny. How can you be sure that this is true?...*

*...because the Bible says it's true!*