

Let not your hearts be troubled. (Intro)

We ended the last study with these words of Jesus, as He gave us all a warning and a command... *(ESV of the Bible used in this study.)*

Matthew 5:13-16 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.” (14) “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. (16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

-- In our discussions we found that many of us, I would venture to say, all of us are involved in spiritual warfare of one sort or other... These may involve life's struggles, (health, finances, directional needs, unsaved loved ones, etc.) – **We cannot allow these ongoing battles to make us feel discouraged. Don't let the 'Great Deceiver' get you down!**

– We must fully understand that Satan and all his host of fallen angels are already defeated, all that is left for them in their remaining time, is to try to take as many of God's precious mankind to destruction with them.

That is where we get the title for this study: **Let not your hearts be troubled.**

In these verses, Jesus tells us that we need to keep our 'saltiness'.

– We can't yield even one inch, we need to be found opposing Satan's lies and deceptions...

See Matthew 5:17-18 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (18) For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

-- This rebukes any effort to compromise God's Word given to us in scriptures (the Bible).

Jesus also commanded, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden ... In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

-- We as a fellowship, must be like a city of lights set high on a hill, for all to see...

God's church, His people, should not be seen as a discouraged and defeated group, just complaining about life and waiting for the end.

-- If we become discouraged we must seek God's renewal of spirit, His Holy Spirit's revival within us. Then we can pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and get back into the battle, with the full assurance that our God cannot be defeated, and in serving Him, VICTORY awaits.

This brings us to explore how to overcome troubling thoughts and discouragement...