

Lessons in Encouragement

1. Anger at circumstances = Lack of trust in God.

A. God is **sovereign**-in control of ALL things

Isaiah 55:8-9 -his thoughts and ways are higher than ours

**Job 38-41 and 42:2* I know that you [God} can do all things

Psalms 139:15-17 -he [God] knew the number of our days before we were born

Romans 11:33-34-No person can understand his ways

B. Confess your anger to God and ask him to help you trust him

Ephesians 4:26- 32-do not let the sun go down on your anger

1st Peter 5:6-11-humble yourself to God, resist the devil, stand firm in your faith

**2 Corinthians 7:9-10*- the purpose of being made sorrowful according to the will of God= repentance

C. God wants us to **trust Him alone**

Psalms 62:1-2-God ALONE is my rock

Matthew 10:37-39-whoever loves others more than God is not worthy

2. To whom can we turn for encouragement in times of need?

God provides sweet sisters in Christ to come alongside

1 Peter 4:10-use your gifts to glorify God

Colossians 3:12-13-put on fruits of the spirit

3. With whom should we worship, grow, and pray, while so far away from you all during this season of mourning?

A. What is our responsibility as a church member?

Hebrews 10:24-25-not neglecting meeting together

Colossians 3:16-let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

B. On whom or what should we focus our thoughts?

Colossians 3:1-4-set your minds on things above

1 Thessalonians 5: 9-11

So how do these struggles apply to all of us?

1. Is there some circumstance in your life that is making you angry? Have you realized that you are really angry at God? Do you trust him to do what is best for you, eternally? Have you trusted Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins? If you have trusted him, have you nurtured anger or frustration toward God that you need to confess to him?
2. Where can you look for encouragement in your Christian walk? How can you be an encouragement to other sisters? Are you part of a small group within the body of Christ? Do you participate in Sunday School, or a Home Fellowship group? Are you part of the Good News Club, Youth Group or Tuesday Morning Bible Study? Do you have an area of service that includes others from the body?
3. On whom or what are your thoughts focused? Do you read and think about God's Word? Or are you too busy thinking about your own feelings? Or do you just keep your mind busy with distractions?

In *1 Thessalonians 5: 11*, Paul writes: Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

