

# HOW NOT TO BECOME DISHEARTENED

By Sarah De Carvalho, Happy Child

*'Where there was apathy,  
now there is energy.  
Where there was despair,  
now there is hope.  
Where I saw nothing,  
now I see everything to live for.  
Thank you, Lord.'*  
'Lifelines', Susan Hardwick

**Are you feeling disheartened?** Whatever you are facing you must persevere. Working with the poorest of the poor, with the broken, with the hurting is tough. But the work you are doing is so worthwhile. Perhaps you have been called by God to work with street children? It's your vocation.

To leave the centre of God's will now will be to choose second best or the hardest way in the long run.

Whatever you are facing, don't isolate yourself and take care not to fall into the 'trap' of self-pity. Seek advice from a good friend, a godly friend, your immediate leader in the ministry or organisation where you are working or seek advice from the pastor of your church where you are currently living and working.

The secret in every success is not quitting. Human nature says, 'If you fail three times, you quit'! God's way is not to let circumstances discourage you. Please read the book of Romans chapter 5 in the Bible.

So often we forget God's promises and as a result we become despondent. In John chapters 14, 15 and 16 Jesus makes a number of wonderful promises to his disciples. Claim them for yourself today (see below).

Do not let your heart be troubled. Jesus is saying to you today: Trust in me!

- You are his temple – he lives in you!
- You will do even greater things than Jesus, if you can believe it!
- The Holy Spirit is your guaranteed personal counsellor – call on him!
- He will never leave you.
- Don't be afraid. His peace is yours!
- He wants you to rely on him 100%.
- He chose you.
- He wants to speak to you.
- You plant the seed, but he will water it.
- No one is going to take away your joy!
- You will have trouble, but he is your peace.
- RELAX, your God has overcome the world!

The reason why we are so often sad and disheartened is because we depend so much on results. We need extraordinary things to happen in order to be happy. In John 15, however, we read about intimacy with Jesus. If you cut off the branches from an apple tree and put them on the ground, are they going to be able to produce anything? It is the same for us. Jesus says, 'I am the vine and you are the branches.' The fruit we bear is love, joy, peace and forgiveness.

Start to count your blessings today. The more you remember, the more there will be to recall. With this new perspective will come hope. It will be a gentle reminder of so much that is so good.