

Inspirational Thought—September 19, 2024

DELETE DISCOURAGING VOICES—BE SUSTAINED BY GOD!

There are many examples of people who had a dream and were discouraged in their path by the negative words of others. I'll briefly mention three people:

1. Joel Osteen grew up in the shadow of a highly successful, well known pastor who had great talent and a large following. Joel never felt he had what it took to be like his dad in pastoral ministry. He worked hard behind the scenes. One day after his dad had spoken to a large crowd, a prominent city leader came back stage looking for the older minister, who had already left. The city leader said that he wanted prayer for a situation in his family. The minister's young son offered to pray for him, but the man replied, "no son, you won't do." "You won't do—you don't have what it takes"—sharp words that stabbed his young heart like daggers. Joel later noted how necessary it is to have a "delete button!" He wrote, "Negative words spoken over you only have power if you give them power."
2. Elvis Presley loved music and particularly he had a dream of singing in a Gospel Quartet. When the Blackwood Brothers came through town, young Elvis auditioned. They turned him down saying that his voice was not of a quality that they could use. When Elvis rose to superstardom, he recruited a Gospel Quartet, The Jordanaires, to sing back-ups in his concerts. Many nights after shows, they would sing Gospel songs around the piano—this was Elvis' musical first love and he never gave it up!
3. Kobe Bryant. The Charlotte Hornets basketball team told Kobe they had no use for him and traded him to the Lakers, where he was an 18-time NBA all-star, the league's most valuable player in 2008, and won five NBA championships. Rather than dwelling on the negative words, "we have no use for you," or "you're not that good," Kobe hit the delete button.

Our souls require sustaining. We are constantly on the search for something that will fill us, satisfy our hungers, and give us a reason to wake up and get back on the path of God's calling, day after day.

Psalm 119:116 says: "*Sustain me, my God, according to your promise, and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed.*"

God promises to sustain us. It is in Christ that our hopes will not be dashed. He will help us hit the delete button through his grace and forgiveness, and he will empower us with the Holy Spirit to continually energize our souls!