

# The Morale Problem

2 Cor. 4:1, 8, 9, 16

## Introduction:

- A. The value of high morale of participants in any struggle is recognized in many areas.
  - 1. In sports — “team spirit”.
  - 2. In military operations.
  - 3. In church activities.
- B. The high morale of Paul should encourage us all.
  - 1. “We faint not” (KJV)
  - 2. “We do not cave in” (Young's Concordance)
- C. We need to look at the incentives in two directions on the subject of morale.

## Discussion:

### I. We Must Cope With Strong Incentives To Cave In.

- A. Afflictions from:
  - 1. Normal disease or accident. (2 Cor. 12:7-10).
  - 2. Hardships and persecutions due to gospel. (2 Cor. 11:24,25).
- B. Disappointments from a lack of:
  - 1. Commendation. (2 Cor. 12:11-12).
  - 2. Gratitude. (2 Cor. 12:15; Cf. Ten Lepers).
  - 3. Commitment. (2 Tim. 4:9,10).
  - 4. Support. (2 Tim. 4:14-16).
  - 5. Popularity. (Acts 28:22).
  - 6. Results. (Gal. 6:9; Uncle Eugene, Noah's 120 Yrs, 1 Tim. 4:16).
  - 7. Harmony. (1 Cor. 11:19; Cf. Lk. 17:1).

### II. We Must Cultivate Strong Incentives Not To Cave In.

- A. Faith.
  - 1. In the Lord. (2 Tim. 4:17,18)
  - 2. In the Lord's Cause. (2 Cor. 11:3,4; Gal. 1:6-9; Rom. 1:15,16; 1 Tim. 3:15)
- B. Gratitude.
  - 1. For God's mercy. (2 Cor. 4:1; 1 Tim. 1:12-14).
  - 2. For good brethren. (Phil. 1:3-7).
- C. Love.
  - 1. For the Lord. (1 John 4:19; 5:1-3).
  - 2. For lost souls. (1 Cor. 9:22,23; Rom. 9:3; 10:1).
  - 3. For brethren. (2 Cor. 12:15; Phil. 1:23-26).
- D. Enthusiasm. (1 Cor. 15:58)
- E. Hope.
  - 1. Of Resurrection. (2 Cor. 4:13,14)
  - 2. Of Heaven. (2 Cor. 4:16-5:10).

## Conclusion:

- A. How is your morale?
- B. “Full-speed” ahead or about to “cave-in”.