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SERMON OUTLINE

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**Overcoming Discouragement by Faith  
in God's Promise in Jesus Christ**

(Pastor Jim Engelman)

We can encounter confusion, discouragement or despair, but our victory is through faith in Jesus Christ.

Examples of godly men going through struggles:

1. John the Baptist – Mat. 11:3
  - Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:13-17—John was “Elijah” to come before the Messiah
  - John 1:19-34; 3:26-36 – John clearly recognized Jesus as the eternal Son of God, our Savior
  - Mark 1:14 – John in custody – 6 months into Jesus’ ministry
  - Matthew 14:1-12 – John’s death – 2 years later; one year before Christ was crucified
  - During his imprisonment – apparently his personal circumstances over powered the promises from God about Jesus – offended – Mat. 11:6
2. Elijah
  - 1 Kings 16 – Ahab the most wicked king of Israel – great idolatry
  - 1 Kings 17 – Elijah confronts the king – no rain – God protects him 3 ½ years
  - 1 Kings 18 – Elijah challenges the false prophets on Mt. Carmel – God against the false gods – God answers with fire – killing 850 false prophets
  - 1 Kings 19 – Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah – he flees – in fear & depression – “and I alone am left” – God encourages him and re-commissions him
3. Failure of Abraham – just about messed up God’s promise – yet he grew in faith, believing God’s promise – Genesis 12:10-20; 16:1-15; 20:1-18

The solution – Overcoming by faith and endurance in Christ – Hebrews 10:4, 10-14, 26-31, 32-34, 35-36; 12:1-3

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Open Door Bible Church 1-1-12

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