



Rising Above Cynicism

1 Samuel 17:33 (NKJV)
³³ And Saul said to David,
“You are not able to go
against this Philistine to
fight with him; for you *are*
a youth, and he a man of
war from his youth.”

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**THE PESSIMIST COMPLAINS ABOUT THE WIND.
THE OPTIMIST EXPECTS IT TO CHANGE.
THE REALIST ADJUSTS THE SAILS.**

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WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR



- ✦ **Accepting reality** - 1 John 5:19; 2 Tim 3:1-8; Eccl. 1:2ff
- ✦ **Legitimate criticism** - Mat. 18:15-17; Acts 7:51-53; 2 Tim 4:2-5; Eph 4:15; etc.
- ✦ **Judging righteously** - John 7:24; Mat 7:1-4; Col. 3:12-15
- ✦ **Discerning truth from error** - Hebrews 5:12-14

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cyn·i·cism (sɪnˈɪ-sɪzˈəm)

1. An attitude of scornful or jaded negativity, especially a general distrust of the integrity or professed motives of others
2. a cynical feeling of distrust

cynical (ˈsɪnikəl) adjective

1. inclined to believe the worst, especially about people.
2. Syn. — scepticism, pessimism, disbelief, doubt, scepticism, mistrust

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WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE DANGER



- ✦ Cynicism is, increasingly, the dominant spirit of our age.
- ✦ Cynicism is a negative, prejudicial attitude towards others.
- ✦ Cynicism prevents positive action.
- ✦ Cynicism kills growth and hope.

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EXAMPLES	DOUBTERS	TRUSTING
Israel on the border Numbers 13,14	10 spies - “we are not able ...” (13:31)	Joshua & Caleb (13:30; 14:8,9)
Gideon & Midianites Judges 7	22,000 Men who left the army - (7:3)	Gideon & his 300 - (7:15ff)
Jonathan against the Philistines - 1 Samuel 13,14	Saul and his 600 men army - (13:7)	Jonathan & his armor bearer - (14:6)
David & Goliath - 1 Samuel 17	Saul & the whole army - (17:11,24,33)	David (17:32,37,45)

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WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE CAUSE



- ♦ The Devil – Rev. 12:10; Job 1:9ff
- ♦ A lack of faith in God – Ex 16:2; Num 13:31; Rom 8:28-39
- ♦ A lack of faith in God's word – Rom 1:16,17; Isa. 55:11; 1 Cor 3:6

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WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE CAUSE



- ♦ Pride – Pro 13:10; 21:24; Jam 4:11
- ♦ Self Righteousness – Mat. 23:30
- ♦ Carnality – 1 Cor. 3:1-4; Gal. 5:15
- ♦ Lack of Love & Mercy – 1 Cor. 13:4-7; (unforgiveness, bitterness, negativity)
- ♦ Ignorance – Mark 2:25;
- ♦ Unreasonable Expectations – Mt 23:4
- ♦ Hypocritical, unfaithful & wicked men - *(both professed believers & professed unbelievers)* - Rom 2:24; 1 Cor 15:33

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WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE FRUIT



- ✦ We can easily become discouraged and stop growing - Heb 12:3; 5:12-14
- ✦ We can easily become discouraged and stop bearing fruit - Mat 25:14-30
- ✦ We can easily become discouraged and discourage others - Num. 13:31; 14:1-4

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WE ARE MOST VULNERABLE



- ♦ If immature & double minded – Heb 5:12,13; Mat 13:22
- ♦ When sin – James 4:17; Jn 8:34
- ♦ When others sin against us – Mt 18:15-20
- ♦ When others are our measure – Luke 10:40,41; Jn 21:20-22
- ♦ Lack of success – 2 Cor. 4:7-17
- ♦ If not with brethren – He 3:13; 10:24,25
- ♦ By friendly fire – James 3:9-18

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WE ARE MOST IMMUNE WHEN WE



- ♦ FOCUS ON JESUS - His suffering, sacrifice & VICTORY (*our circumstances could be MUCH worse*)! - Heb 12:2-5
- ♦ KNOW WE CAN overcome by faith - Heb 12:1; 11:1-40
- ♦ PURIFY OURSELVES - examine SELF NOT others - Heb 12:1; 2 Cor 13:5
- ♦ COMMIT TO THE WORK - get busy - make a difference - Heb 12:1; Jn 21:20-22

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WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



- ♦ Spend more time in God's word -
- ♦ Pray fervently for the church.
- ♦ Take responsibility personally
- ♦ Attend every service possible
- ♦ Get personally involved in the worship & needs of the church
 - ♦ Support the work of the church
 - ♦ Talk "UP" the work of the church to others . . .

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WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



“To be builders, we have to rise above cynicism and believe that it does good to do good.” —

Gary Henry, wordpoints.com

Galatians 3:10

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WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



NEED FOR PATIENCE -
persevering through & in the
face of those things that
discourage us by refusing to
become “weary in doing good”

Heb 12:15a; Ga 6:9; Ja 5:7-11.

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WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



1 Samuel 14:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us. For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few."



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JOSHUA 1:6-9 (NKJV)

⁶ Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

JOSHUA 1:6-9 (NKJV)

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.

For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”