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).
      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”.