

## Encouraging Others

### Introduction.

1. One of the great texts of the Bible is Hebrews 3:12-13.

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is {still} called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

2. This passage stresses the need and importance of “Encouraging Others.”

3. Encouragement is defined as “The act of inspiring others with renewed courage, a renewed spirit or renewed hope.”

4. We all need encouragement on a regular basis.

5. There are countless things that discourage us to the point we are tempted to give up..

6. Here are many of the things that discourage people.

Health of self or others	State of the church	Disappointments of all kinds
Finances	Death of a friend or loved one	State of nation
Marriage and Family Problems	Guilt	Lack of spiritual progress
Fear and uncertainty of present and future	Worry about present, pass, future	Being too critical
Loneliness	Our work	Thinking there is no hope
Rejection of family and friends	The decline of the church	Lack of friends and others who care.
Low self-esteem	Lack of appreciation from others	Others seeking to harm us.
Thinking no one cares	Thinking God does not care	Thinking one is a failure
Lack of involvement	Too much criticism	Thinking good things and accomplishments come easy.

### Important To Christians

1. The Scriptures emphasize the need to encourage others. (Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 10:24-25; 2 Tim. 4:2).

Rom 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

1 Thess 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another;} and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

2 Tim 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season {and} out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2. Here are some thoughts about the need of encouraging others.

a. This is needed even when things seem to be going well.

b. It is especially needed in times of trial and opposition from - friends, family, strangers, enemies, etc.

### **Encourage One Another Daily**

1. Hebrews 3:13 says “But encourage one another day after day...”

2. We need to encourage others on a regular basis.

a. We should take advantage of every opportunity to encourage because the need is great.

b. We generally do not have to go far into the day to find someone who needs a word of encouragement.

c. As Christians, we need to look for opportunities to encourage others.

1) There are many in the local church who need encouragement.

2) There are family members of the local church who need encouragement.

3) There are many missionaries who need encouragement.

4) There are neighbors and strangers who need encouragement.

3. We need to make encouragement a vital and regular part of our lives.

### **Encourage Others Without Delay**

1. Our text emphasizes we are to encourage others without delay - “But exhort one another day after day, while it is called Today.”

2. Delay in encouragement is often deadly - “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is {still} called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

3. Many people fall into sin through discouragement and become “hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

4. In fact those who fall into sin may be hardened to the point it is difficult and even impossible to bring them to repentance. See Heb. 6:6.

## Some Ways To Encourage Others

1. We need to be aware of what encourages us.
  - a. We need to do the same things to others.
  - b. Knowing what a difference it makes in our own lives will help us help others when the going gets tough.
  - c. The Golden Rule needs to be practiced. (Matt. 7:12).

Matt 7:12 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

2. We need to recognize that encouragement goes straight to the heart.
  - a. Encouragement comes from the combination of two words.
    - 1) "en" which means to "to put into."
    - 2) The Latin "cor" meaning "heart."
  - b. It would be good to keep in mind the words of Paul found in 2 Corinthians 4:16.

2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

3. We need to encourage others with a reminder of Christ's coming.
  - a. It redirects our thinking to an eternal perspective and deliverance from sin and death.
  - b. Christ is coming and there is an eternity awaiting.
    - 1) Paul wrote these encouraging words. (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

1 Thess 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

1 Thess 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

1 Thess 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thess 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of {the} archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thess 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2) The Bible teaches that eternity is either in heaven or torment. (Matt 25:46).

- c. We need to turn our minds to eternal matters instead of physical ones.
  - 1) Paul penned these words stressing this fact. (2 Cor. 4:16-18-5:2).

2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

2 Cor 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

2 Cor 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Cor 5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Cor 5:2 For indeed in this {house} we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

2) Paul again stressed the need of thinking on and pursuing eternal things in Colossians the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. (Col. 3:1-4).

Col 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Col 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

4. We need to affirm positive changes we see in others.

a. Little comments and statements often help in reinforcing positive changes.

b. Here are some ideas on how to do this.

1) "You seem to have a really great attitude about..."

2) "It may be that I am just starting to take notice, but I see that you are..."

3) "Do you think you are becoming more..."

4. We need to write a letter or note or call others telling them that we are praying for them.

a. Tell them what we are praying.

b. Jesus prayed for Peter. (Lk. 22:31-32).

Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded {permission} to sift you like wheat;

Luke 22:32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

c. Paul often told brothers he was praying for them. (Rom. 15:13; Phil. 1:3-6; Col. 1:3-5; 1 Thess, 1:2-3; 2 Thess, 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 1:3; Phile. 4-5).

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Phil 1:3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

Phil 1:4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

Phil 1:5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

Phil 1:6 {For I am} confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Col 1:3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,  
 Col 1:4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;  
 Col 1:5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel.

1 Thess 1:2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention {of you} in our prayers;  
 1 Thess 1:3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

2 Thess 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is {only} fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows {ever} greater;  
 2 Thess 1:4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

2 Tim 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day

Philem 1:4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,  
 Philem 1:5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;

**Conclusion.**

1. Let us all major in encouraging others and make this a daily practice!
2. This is something we all can do, and it something we all need.
3. Many will be lost, including possibly ourselves, because of discouragement.
4. Let us look to God, the Scriptures and others for encouragement.
5. Let us give others what we need, that is, encouragement.
6. Here are some ways to encourage others.

Be Faithful -set a good example	Call or email others	Let each person know they are important.
Be optimistic even when everything is not perfect.	Send letters, cards, notes	Be kind to others and be a friend to them.
Look for good in others	Ask others to join in good works	Be willing to listen
Be very cautious with criticism	Teach others to manage money	Give hugs or pat on back
Pray for others	Constantly practice good deeds	Teach in love

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