

Encouraging Others

Intro: Encouragement is defined as “The act of inspiring others with renewed courage, a renewed spirit, or renewed hope.” It is something that we all need at times.

I. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS

A. The Scriptures emphasis the need.

1. Rom. 14:19 ¹⁹ “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”
2. 1 The. 5:11 ¹¹ “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”
3. Heb. 3:12-13 ¹² “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
4. Heb. 10:24-25 ²⁴ “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
5. 2 Tim. 4:2 ² “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

B. How are some ways we can encourage others.

C. We will using Heb. 3:12-13 as a basis for our study.

II. ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER DAILY

A. **Heb. 3:12-13** ¹² “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another **daily**, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

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

1. We should take advantage of every opportunity because the need is great.
2. You generally don’t have to go far into the day to find someone who needs a word of encouragement.
3. Thus, we need to look for opportunities.

III. ENCOURAGE OTHERS WITHOUT DELAY.

A. **Heb. 3:12-13** ¹² “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another daily, **while it is called To day**; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

B. Delay in encouragement might be deadly.

1. This is seen in Heb. 3:12 ¹² “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”
2. One might fall into sin through discouragement.
3. One might be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

IV. FIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS.

A. Be aware of what encourages you.

1. Do the same things for others.
2. Knowing what a difference it makes in your own life will help you help others when the going gets tough.

3. Mat. 7:12 ¹²Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

B. Encouragement goes straight to the heart.

1. Encouragement comes from the combination
 - a. *en* which means “to put into.”
 - b. The Latin *cor* meaning “heart.”
2. 2 Cor. 4:16 ¹⁶For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.”

C. Encourage others with a reminder of Christ’s coming.

1. It redirects our thinking to an eternal perspective and deliverance from sin and death.
2. Christ is coming and there is an eternity awaiting:
 - a. 1 The. 4:17-18 ¹³But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸Wherefore comfort [encourage—ESV] one another with these words.”
 - b. That eternity is either heaven or torment; Mat. 25:46 ⁴⁶And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”
3. Turns our mind to eternal matters instead of physical ones.
 - a. 2 Cor. 4:16-18 ¹⁶For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; ¹⁸While 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.”
 - b. Col. 3:1-4 ¹If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

D. Affirm positive changes you see in others.

1. Little comments and statements often help in reinforcing positive changes.
2. For example:
 - a. “You seem to have a really great attitude about...”
 - b. “It may be that I’m just starting to take notice, but I see that you’re...”
 - c. “Do you think that you are becoming more...?”
3. However, don’t lie to them regarding these things.

E. Write a note telling them that you are praying for them.

1. Tell them what you are praying.
2. Jesus prayed for Peter; Luke 22:32 ³²But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”
3. Paul often told brethren he was praying for them:
 - a. Rom. 15:13 ¹³Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”
 - b. Phi. 1:3-6 ³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until

- now; ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:"
- c. Col. 1:3-5 "³We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints, ⁵ For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;"
 - d. 1 The. 1:2-3 "² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; ³ Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;"
 - e. 2 The. 1:3-4 "³We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; ⁴ So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:"
 - f. 2 Tim. 1:3 "³I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;"
 - g. Phm 4-5 "⁴I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, ⁵ Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;"

Conclusion: If you are not a Christian, let us encourage you to become such today. If you are not faithful as a Christian, let us encourage you to repent. Think seriously about eternity and your soul's destiny.