

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

- As Christians we can bring a message of hope and encouragement to many people in our life.
- Because God's love has been poured out in the hearts of every believer by the Holy Spirit, **(Romans 5:5)** every Christian has the ability to love others unconditionally.
- In a world which is becoming more rushed and less personal, we have the ability more than ever before to *shine even brighter* as we love and encourage those around us.



- Because of the hope that we have in Christ, we can continually let others know in this world that there is a God who is both willing and able to help them in life.

Jesus Himself said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)



- As we continually love and encourage those people around us with the love of the Lord, we are more readably able to lead them to Christ because of our Christian witness.
- Receiving *encouragement also helps people to remain strong* when they are going through trials and tests in life and helps to empower them to persevere in their Christian walk when they are experiencing temptations.
- In a world that is now in many ways getting more complex and harder to live in, how important it is that we look to encourage one another as often as possible.



- **In the book of Hebrews we read, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; *but exhort one another daily*, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,” (Hebrews 3:12-14)**



Holding Fast to Christ ...Firm
To The End



Hebrews 3:7-14

- In this passage of scripture we see clearly the importance of continually encouraging one another in our walk with the Lord.

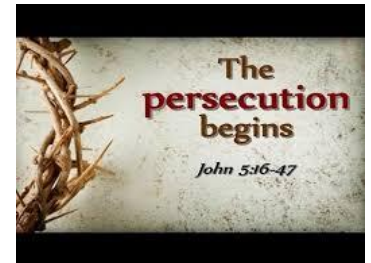
- As Christians we also live in a world which is increasingly becoming more opposed to Godly values.



- For this reason more than ever before, we need to look at every opportunity to encourage our brothers and sisters in the Lord to keep persevering in their faith.

Jesus Himself said, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”

(John 15:18-20)

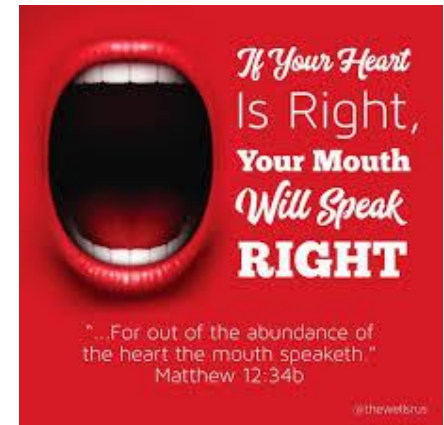


- Fellowship with other believers is therefore crucial for all Christians. It is within the context of a loving local church fellowship that we can encourage others and be encouraged ourselves.



- As we are all in a constant spiritual war, we must also continually guard our hearts from becoming hardened through the hurts of life, or from becoming critical and judgmental.

- Jesus made it clear that what is in our hearts will ultimately come out of our mouths when we speak, because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.



In the gospel of Luke we read the words of Jesus, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45)

- **In the book of proverbs we read, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)**



- As Christians it is so important that we continually guard our heart so that we remain soft and loving towards others and that we do not allow life's bitter experiences to make us cynical in life.



- The Bible makes it clear that we must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God.
(Acts 14:22)



- **Before I share 7 reasons why we need to continually look for every opportunity to encourage others,** I will share six keys that help to keep our heart soft so that we can continually love and encourage others with our words and actions.

i) **Learning to continually walk in the Spirit – We need to stay under the controlling influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit**



The Apostle Paul wrote, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!” (Galatians 5:14-15)**

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)

ii) Living a lifestyle of true worship in which we worship the Father in Spirit and truth – Where we have a genuine heartfelt love and devotion for the LORD (John 4:23-24) (Psalm 37:4)



King David wrote,

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

(Psalm 37:4)

iii) Continually renewing our mind with the Word of God – Developing Kingdom thinking (Romans 12:2) (Joshua 1:8)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

(Romans 12:2)



iv) Being quick to forgive those who hurt us (not allowing a root of bitterness to spring up in our heart) (Matthew 18:21-22) (Hebrews 12:14-15)

In the book of Hebrews we read,

**“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;”
(Hebrews 12:14-15)**



v) Choosing to pray for those who spitefully use or reject us (*praying for our enemies*) (Matthew 5:44)

Jesus Himself said,

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” **(Matthew 5:44-45)** **and**



**vi) Being careful to choose our friends wisely –
Evil company corrupts good habits.
(1 Corinthians 15:33)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“Do not be deceived: Evil company
corrupts good habits.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)**



HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE LEARN TO LOVE AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER IN LIFE

I will now quickly share seven reasons why it is so important to encourage others in life.

1) IT HELPS TO MAINTAIN LOVE AND UNITY IN OUR CHURCHES, WORKPLACES AND FAMILIES

- Being in an environment where people love and encourage one another on a consistent basis will be blessed.
- The bible makes it clear that where brethren dwell together in unity God commands a blessing. (**Psalm 133:1-3**)



In the book of Psalms we read,

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing –Life forevermore.”

(Psalm 133:1-3)



- When people work together in unity they will invariably achieve much more in life.
- When we work or live in an atmosphere where people respect and think highly of one another, we will experience great unity and love.



The Apostle Paul wrote, “Fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.



Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” (Philippians 2:2-3)

2) IT GIVES STRENGTH TO OTHERS (To encourage others means “to give strength” to others)

- Everyone at times will experience discouragement.



- Words of encouragement and time spent with people going through trials and challenges can greatly lift their spirits.
- Having fellowship with other believers gives us the opportunity to encourage each other in our walk with the Lord.



In the book of Hebrews we read, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

(Hebrews 10:23-25)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)



In the book of Acts we read, “When Paul saw them (the brethren), he thanked God and took courage.” (Acts 28:15)

- **HOW WE NEED ONE ANOTHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**



3) WE SHINE MORE BRIGHTLY IN THIS WORLD

- In a world where people often mistreat and speak badly about others, if we continually live a life where we love and encourage others, we will shine brightly and make a great difference in this world.



Jesus Himself said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

(John 13:34-35)



4) IT HELPS IN BUILDING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

- Most people respond to love and being affirmed for what they do in life.
- Rather than focusing on the faults in people we need to always look at affirming the good things in the lives of all those that we relate to.
- As we make a habit of encouraging those in our life by acknowledging their good points and achievements, we will invariably develop better and stronger relationships in life.



- Being friendly and encouraging others is the key to developing good friendships and lasting relationships.

**In the book of Proverbs we read, “A man who has friends must himself be friendly...”
(Proverbs 18:24)**

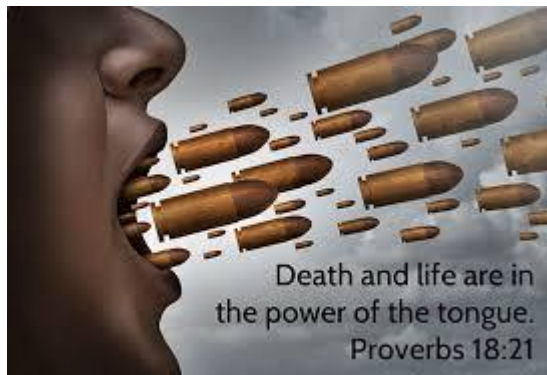


**5) THE WORDS THAT WE SPEAK NEED TO BE
“LIFE GIVING” (There is life and death in the
power of the tongue)**

- The words that we speak in life in many ways frame our world.
- If we continually speak words of life and faith and encouragement to others, we will live in an atmosphere of faith and love in our homes and workplaces.
- The words that we speak have the potential to either build up or pull down others and to strengthen or destroy our relationships with others.



In the book of proverbs we read, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Proverbs 18:21)



- We must also always ensure that our self talk is positive and in line with God's Kingdom promises for our life that are contained in His Word

6) WE CAN HELP INSPIRE PEOPLE TO FULFILL THEIR GOD GIVEN DESTINY

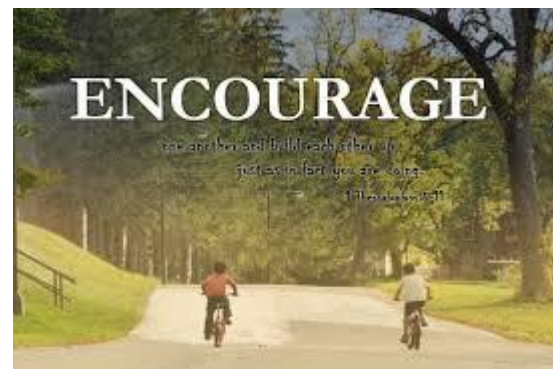
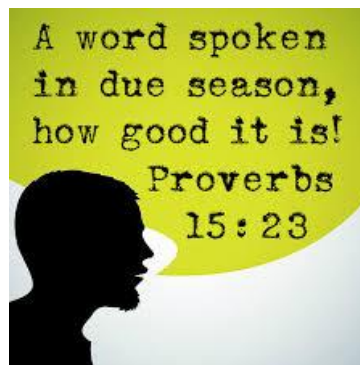
- Our Christian walk is a marathon and at times we will go through wilderness seasons.
- It is during the winter seasons of our life that we most need encouragement.
- A word in season can sometimes be the difference between a person fulfilling their God given destiny or quitting on the point of a miracle.



- Continually encouraging those in our life to be all that God has planned for their life and to keep going during their trials can be the key to them fulfilling their full potential in Christ.

**In the book of Proverbs we read, “A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”
(Proverbs 15:23)**

AND

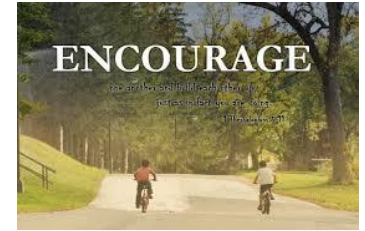


7) IT HELPS BELIEVERS TO REMAIN STRONG IN THEIR WALK WITH THE LORD WHEN BEING PERSECUTED FOR THEIR FAITH

- The bible makes it clear that just prior to the return of the Lord there will be great times of persecution.
- In the early church there was also great persecution.
- In the book of Acts we see how Barnabas was used mightily to encourage the believers at Antioch to continue with the Lord.



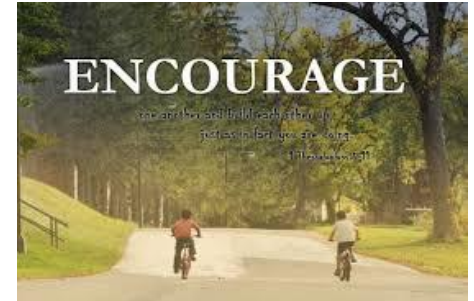
- **As a result a great many people were added to the Lord.**



We see this in the following passage of Scripture
In the book of Acts we read, “The news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.” (Acts 11:22-24)



- **Receiving constant encouragement from other believers is crucial in the times that we now live in.**



- **I will now conclude by again sharing what the writer of the book of Hebrews wrote:**



“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; *but exhort one another daily*, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,” **(Hebrews 3:12-14)**

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

(Hebrews 10:23-25)



More than ever before we need to be encouraging one another in the Body of Christ

- So may I encourage you to cultivate the habit of actively encouraging others in the days to come



- There are many people in need of encouragement and hope in our world



- As we actively look for opportunities to encourage others in the days to come, we will be a great inspiration and support to many, as well as seeing our own significant relationships in life being further strengthened and enriched