

Living in Hope with the One Leader Study Series

Title: Encourage One Another

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As we walk through the valleys, we must not go alone; we need others to strengthen and help us along the way. What we might need most is encouragement. Why encouragement? When times are difficult, we can lose perspective and lose heart.

If we are alone, the enemy seeks to kill, steal, and destroy, and we are vulnerable to that attack. When we are alone, our emotions can begin to weigh heavily upon us, causing despair and making us want to throw in the towel.

Encouragement is “the action of giving someone support, confidence, or hope. To put courage into. Infuse with hope.”

The Purpose and Role of Encouragement:

- *Our Hearts Are Encouraged and Knit Together.*

Colossians 2:2 says, “That their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself.”

- *We Build Up One Another.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

- *We Build Community.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.”

Encouragement helps overcome loneliness and meets the need to be connected. We are relational beings, and the Lord has made us for one another. One of the greatest things people can do for one another in these challenging times is to encourage one another.

“Beneath all our problems there are desperately hurting souls that must find the nourishment only community can provide or die. The greatest need in modern civilization is the development of communities—true communities where the heart of God is home, where the humble and wise learn to shepherd those on the path behind them, where trusting strugglers lock arms with others as together they journey on.” – Larry Crabb

Encouragement comes from:

- *The Scriptures and the Lord.*

Romans 15:4-5 says, *“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus.”*

- *A Mentor.*

1 Thessalonians 3:2 says, *“And we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith.”*

- *A Father.*

1 Thessalonians 2:11 says, *“Just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children.”*

True encouragement comes from the Lord, who is working in (instilling courage into) us so that we can be an encouragement to others. The Scriptures are a great source of encouragement and hope, as they keep our focus on the eternal—that which lasts forever. There are two roles we can play that the Word says will be an encouragement—being a mentor and a father. These roles guide, direct, and watch out for a son or follower. At the center of these relationships, both the mentor and father have the other’s best interests at heart.

How can we encourage others? It can be something very simple such as a touch, a note, or a word saying that you are praying for them. So, call them, connect with them, and care for others. This encouragement is like a drink of water to a parched soul, or a light in the darkness to point the way. We all are called to be a Barnabas, whose name means “encourager.” Paul would not have matured in the faith without the watchful care and encouragement of Barnabas. Be a Barnabas and find out who is your Paul so you can encourage them. It just may have been that encouragement was the one critical factor that made the difference between Paul’s reaching the world or being defeated by the enemy!

We Should Encourage:

- *Day by Day.*

Hebrews 3:13 says, *“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.”*

- *When We See the Day Drawing Near.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, *“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 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.”*

We all could use encouragement—even many times during the day. Too often our lives seem to leak courage and the well goes dry, especially in the challenges. This is when we need encouragers in our lives. In trials we don’t need the naysayers—the negative people who are critical about most things. When we are discouraged, we will be open to the enemy’s temptations and fall into sin much quicker.

In the struggles and trials, we are called not only to encourage one another by gathering together but also by keeping a real focus on the eternal and the second coming of Christ. That day will be a day of hope, deliverance, and final victory.

Encouragement Is Linked to Hope:

- 1. Romans 15:4-5** says, *“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”*
- 2. Hebrews 6:17-19** says, *“In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil.”*

Encouragement and hope are two sides of the same coin—they are inextricably linked. We encourage others by helping them have a clear and proper hope. That hope begins with Christ in us and is only final when we enter into eternity.

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” – Winston Churchill

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.” – Theodore Roosevelt

“Courage isn’t having the strength to go on. It is going on when you don’t have strength.” – Napoleon Bonaparte

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