

Living Your Next | Encourage One Another

We are looking at ways we can prepare our hearts for spiritual renewal and growth. So far, our discussion has included a commitment to God's Word and to prayer. Today we turn our attention to encouraging one another.

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.

Hebrews 3:13 New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB, 1960, 1995)

Biblical encouragement isn't focused on making compliments. Christian encouragement shares our hope. It points out evidence of God's grace. It asks us to rest assured that God is in control of our lives.

Encouragement was a part of the early church's community and fellowship together (Acts 13:15, 16:40, 18:27, 20:1-2, 27:36). They spurred one another on to a further place in faith (Acts 14:22), hope (Rom 15:4), unity (Rom 15:5, Col 2:2), joy (Acts 15:31), strength (Acts 15:32), fruitfulness (Heb 10:24) faithfulness (1 Thes 2:12), perseverance (Heb 10:25) and the certainty of Christ's return (1 Thes 4:18).

Here are two things you can do to become a better encourager.

First, **pray for God to give you a heart that encourages.** A part of that prayer must include dying to singularly self-centered desires and perspectives. Trust that God, through His Spirit, will teach you how to build up others for His glory and their spiritual good.

Second, **make encouragement a daily discipline.** If daily disciplines don't come naturally for you, build the structure to make it happen. Make specific lists of who you need to encourage and how (note, email, text, call, prayer) you intend to make it happen.

Your Cafeteria of Commitment

Your
Next
Steps

Encourage one another day after day

Show Up

Your presence strengthens community and fellowship. Encourage one another all the more as the Day approaches.

Send

Send an encouraging note, card, email, or call each week to a class member. Use the table for secret items.

Support

Support our *Flourishing Flowers* ministry, encouraging someone in our church with prayers and presence.