

ZION CHAPEL VISION ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

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Zion Chapel Vision

- Encountering God
- *Encouraging one another*
- Engaging our world

Encountering God is the basis for the other two.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing.* TEV

“Encourage” (English, from the French “to make, put in” + “courage”) = give courage, confidence, hope, approval, support; motivate to action

The Bible describes three types of encouragement

- Comfort, console, counsel, exhort (= *paraklete*, a name for the Holy Spirit:)
 - Jesus used this in the context of leaving the disciples, but the Holy Spirit would *be there for them* (“one called along side to comfort, be an advocate or defender”)
- To build up, edify
 - To provide resources for accomplishing a task
- To strengthen
 - To provide strength in weakness

How do we find and give encouragement in today’s tough times?

1. People who are encouraged by **God** encourage **one another**. 1 Samuel 30:1-6

- David knew how to encourage himself in God.
 - **1 Samuel 30:6** *David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.* KJV
 - The word here is “to strengthen”
- After David was encouraged by God he became a great source of encouragement to his men.
 - One person can make a great difference.
- But sometimes you can only get encouragement from God.
 - People and circumstances may have no encouragement to offer.
- **“One another” can never give us all the encouragement we need.**
 - “One another” may sometime want to stone you!!
- If we aren’t being encouraged by God, we won’t have enough to give away.
 - If we only depend on other people for encouragement, we will be sadly disappointed.
 - There is a definite limit to human resources for encouragement.
- **Some encouragement you can only get from God.**

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 - A Christ follower starts out needing a lot of encouragement from others.
 - But we must train them early to find encouragement in God.
 - *Can you find encouragement in God? (Worship, prayer, Word...)*
- 2. The Holy Spirit is a constant source of encouragement (comfort).**
- **Acts 9:31** *Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. NIV*
 - Consistent encounters with God encourage us.
 - Encountering God is the basis of encouraging one another.
 - The Holy Spirit reveals himself in the church in ways you can't find anywhere else.
 - Notice in this verse whom the Holy Spirit encouraged
 - The Holy Spirit's intention is to grow the church through encouragement.
- 3. The church is God's plan for encouragement.**
- **Hebrews 10:23-25** *Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching. NIV*
 - Meeting together is God's way to:
 - Not give up on your hope in God.
 - Stay motivated to love others and do good
 - Receive – and give – encouragement
 - Encouragement becomes more important as the end approaches.
 - Implication: As things get worse? Or as the time of our reward – and judgment – draws near?

Jesus received encouragement from his disciples.

- **Luke 22:28** *You are those who have stood by me [persevered with me] in my trials. NIV*
- “My trials, my humiliations, and my assaults from the power of Satan and a wicked world.” (Barnes' Notes)

Paul understood the power of encouragement.

- **Romans 1:11-12** *I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong- that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. NIV*

Barnabas, “Son of Encouragement”

- **Acts 4:36-37** *Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. NIV*

Our disappointment with “one another” dare not lead to isolation.

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- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** *Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. NLT*
- Ill., “I don’t need the church.”
 - Explain that to God, who took great pains to
 - A casual approach to relating to other Christians is not the New Testament pattern.
 - You may not like the way people do church.
 - But you dare not abandon Christ’s bride.

Encouragement can keep you from deep regret.

- **Hebrews 3:12-13** *See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. NIV*
- *Parakaleo* – to console, encourage, strengthen by consolation, comfort, exhort
- Same Greek word in Hebrews 3 and 10

Practical encouragement

- **Encouragement comes through word and deed.**
 - Acts of kindness can be a great source of encouragement.
 - Ill., man who polished families shoes after a death
- **Encourage character rather than only accomplishment.**
 - *Not*, “You got an A in algebra. That makes me proud of you.”
 - *But*, “You got an A in algebra. I’m proud of how hard you worked to get a good grade.”
 - *Not*, “You look really nice in that outfit. You always wear nice clothes.”
 - *But*, “You look nice in that outfit. I bet you put some effort into picking it out.”
 - **2 Timothy 1:3-5** *...Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. NIV*
 - From this letter, Timothy was encouraged in his compassion and faith.
 - Celebrate accomplishments, but encourage character.
- **Encouragement is more effective than criticism.**
 - Encouragement motivates, criticism discourages.
 - Any criticism should be done in the context of encouragement.
 - Paul’s letters to the churches demonstrate how to take the most negative situation and start addressing it with encouragement.
- **Encourage hope in God rather than hope in hope.**
 - *Not*, “Things will get better. You just need to have a positive outlook.”
 - *But*, “It will not always be this way. God will help you through this time.”

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 *May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. NIV*

Study notes, extra material:

Encouragement in Action

- Get it from God.
- Receive it from one another.
- Get related so you can get encouraged.
- Isolated people get discouraged.
- Small group,
- Give it away generously.

1 Corinthians 14:31 *For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.* NIV

To build up, edify

Acts 9:31 *Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.* NIV

To encourage each other, be mutually encouraged

Romans 1:11-12 *I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong- 12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.* NIV

NT:4837

sumparakaleoo

1. to call upon or invite or exhort at the same time or together

2. to strengthen (A.V., comfort) with others Romans 1:12

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Same root as the Holy Spirit spoken of as the “comforter”

To strengthen

1 Samuel 30:6 *And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.* KJV