

FBC Devotion Sunday October 18 2020 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Be an Encourager

“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”

Billy Graham is reported to have said, “One of the greatest needs today is the ministry of encouragement.” How we all need to have a word of encouragement. It makes all the difference in how we perform in our jobs, in the home, or even in our ministries.

So often it's easy for people to focus on the negative, rather than the positive, such as the mistakes we may make and the hopeless situation we feel we're in. Just one word of encouragement can change all that. It encourages us to carry on and give it our best. It makes us feel appreciated, and that we do make a difference.

If we're honest, we have to admit there are times we all need encouragement. Many times someone has encouraged me by a timely word at the right moment that inspired me to continue striving to honour the Lord in the ministry He has given me.

People everywhere are in need of an encouraging word, an uplifting compliment. We can lift others with inspiring words which are thoughtful and sincere.

The Scriptures though make it clear that the church is to be distinctive from the world in the matter of encouragement. Our present society can bring about depression and defeat, **the church of Christ seeks to inspire and uplift.**

William Barclay wrote, “It is easy to laugh at men's ideals; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a man on his feet. Blessed is the man who speaks such a word.”

If there ever was a time that we as the body of Christ need to encourage, comfort and uplift one another, the time is now as we go through these days of COVID isolation.

To encourage our brothers and sisters is not complimenting them on their looks, hair or clothing etc, but encouraging them in their daily walk with the Lord.

It doesn't mean that we're to flatter one another. Flattery is defined as excessive or insincere praise. Flattery is saying nice things to people in order to get something from them. We need to learn to encourage without falling into the trap of praising people excessively in order to win their approval.

Biblical encouragement isn't spouting off motivational platitudes to one another, it's much deeper and much stronger (and much more honest) than that.

My brothers and sisters, we are to encourage one another, for this is what the Lord commands of us on THIS day and everyday concerning one another. Reach out today to our brothers and sisters with a word of encouragement from the Word of God for when we do, we ourselves will be strengthened.

Chuck Swindoll wrote, “I know of no one more needed, more valuable, more Christ-like than the individual who is committed to the ministry of encouragement.” **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help us to focus on encouraging one another and to think of creative ways of encouraging others.