



Words Of Inspiration

What is it that allows you to accomplish that which you thought was beyond your ability?

What is it that gets you through a difficult day at the office or the pressures at home?

What is it that helps you endure a crisis or an impossible situation?

What is it that we all need yet costs nothing; is so easy to give, and able to turn heartache and despair into hope and strength?

IT IS ENCOURAGEMENT.

In the Old Testament the word means “*to be strong*”, or “*strengthen*”. God knew the task of leading the Israelites into the Promised Land would seem like an impossibility to Joshua so He commanded Moses to “*charge Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go across at the head of this people, and he shall give them as an inheritance the land which you will see*” (Deuteronomy 3:28). And God’s word from Moses to the people was “*Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them (the enemies in the land) the Lord your God is the One who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you*” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Moses encouraged Joshua and the people – and you know the rest of the story of Israel’s settling in the land. Encouragement goes a long way in everyone’s life but especially with those whose lives seem stalled in the muck and mire of negative or overbearing circumstances.

In the New Testament the word means “*to beseech, to entreat and to comfort*”. It’s what the Lord provides (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) in our times of affliction so we can encourage others when they are suffering (experiencing discouraging circumstances).

Paul told the church at Thessalonica to “*encourage the faint-hearted or discouraged*” (1 Thessalonians 5:14) but also admonished them to simply “*encourage one another, and build up one another*” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

It seems all people need to be encouraged, and you and I are no different. As believers, we are to encourage others with the same encouragement we receive from the Lord (2 Corinthians 1:4).

Read *Psalms 134* and notice how the Israelites, who, when leaving the temple after a day of praising God, encouraged the priests and Levites in carrying out their evening duties. Imagine the attitude of these servants of God upon hearing the words and seeing the work of these worshippers. I believe it made their service more enjoyable and satisfying.

This Psalm serves as an example and reminder to us to appreciate and encourage those with whom we labor for the Lord, those with whom we worship the Lord and those who labor for the Lord on our behalf. Encouragement builds and strengthens relationships.

Be an encourager. It goes a long way in helping others overcome burdens, accomplish the mundane, and cope with life in general. May God help each of us to be encouragers.

Respectfully,
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