



Encouragement in a Dangerous World

Today the world is a dangerous place to live, but it is the only place we can live. The forces of Satan have endangered the entire world and are waging a battle with the forces of God. Christians who are encouragers are greatly needed to stand up to the forces of Satan. As Christians we need to remember that God is in control of everything, and we need to be acting like Christians and encouraging those around us.

The need for encouragement is very evident today. Many people have lost their way and don't see any clear way forward. There is war in Ukraine and war in the Mid-East, and many believe another world war is close to beginning. People today are afraid, discouraged, and don't know where to turn. The question on many people's mind is, what can we do in these difficult times. Some choose to ignore the world situation, some live their lives in fear, and some otherwise. As Christians we need to do what we can do to make this world a better place to live. We can do this by showing to the world that as Christians we have much to be thankful for. One thing those around us need today is encouragement.

Barnabas was known as the son of encouragement. When the church in Jerusalem heard about the problems in the church in Antioch they sent Barnabas. **Acts 11:19-26 (ESV)** *Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord*

Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

As Christians we each need to be encouragers. You may never know how much a kind word, a thank you, or a card of thanks will mean to one who is discouraged. There are many reasons and issues in the world that are great issues and don't seem to be easily solved. But we as Christians need to be part of the solution. We can make a real difference in someone's life today and each day we live. One day at a time and one person at a time is how it is done. We have much to be thankful for in Starkville today, and we each need to be more attuned to expressing this positive life of gratitude we each should be living. **Eph 4:1-3 (ESV)** *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

So let us each try to be encouragers of one another. Gratitude is one way we have of walking in a manner worthy of our calling in Christ Jesus. Right now, today, each of us has numerous opportunities to be encouragers and show gratitude for what Christ has given us. "We owed a debt we could not pay, and Christ paid a debt he did not owe." Let us live and show gratitude and encourage at least one person each day we live. The world has never

needed to hear a word of encouragement as much as it does today. No one can show the gratitude I owe to Christ except me. Only I can express the gratitude I owe to Christ. What have I done today to show encouragement and gratitude. Someone needs to hear you say from the heart, thank you, as they struggle with life in this sin sick world.

- Johnie N. Jenkins