

One Another
Encourage One Another

Most of us know what it feels like to be worn down by words.

And then, on the other side, most of us also know what it feels like when the right word comes at the right time.

Words can drain courage, and words can restore courage.

Jesus said in John 13 that the world would know we are His disciples by the way we love each other.

It's something we practice with one another.

Today, we're going to take the next step. If love is the mark of the church, encouragement is one of the ways that love speaks.

What kind of people are we becoming with our words, our presence, and our attention?

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly 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, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:19-25 NIV

1) Encouragement Begins with _____ in _____.

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus..."

That phrase would have carried enormous weight for the original audience. In the Old Testament, the Most Holy Place was the sacred space where the presence of God was uniquely represented.

Because of His blood, because of His sacrifice, because of His finished

work, we have confidence to draw near to God. That matters for encouragement because Christian encouragement is different.

Biblical encouragement begins with the reality that Jesus has opened the way to God, and because of Him, weary people can draw near again. The passage continues: *“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings.”*

The first encouragement believers need is the reminder that Jesus is enough.

It is helping someone regain courage because Jesus is still faithful. Before he tells us to encourage one another, he anchors us in Jesus.

The deepest encouragement we have to offer is the gospel applied with love to a real person in a real moment.

Who around you needs to be reminded that they can draw near to God?

2) Encouragement Requires _____

Hebrews 10:24 says, *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”* That word “consider” is important. It means we don’t encourage each other accidentally.

Then Paul uses the phrase *“spur one another on.”* The idea is to stir up, to provoke, to nudge someone forward. Encouragement isn’t always soft and sentimental. We may care in general, but our attention is scattered. We need to be reminded that nobody is too busy for those who matter to us. It is all about priorities. We either find reasons to stay close or excuses to stay away!

Encouragement requires thoughtful attention. Thoughtful attention is one of the ways that love becomes visible.

ENCOURAGEMENT requires us to be intentional.

3) Encouragement _____ When We Stay _____.

Paul says in verse 25, *“not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day*

approaching.” He draws a connection between encouragement and meeting together. Encouragement needs proximity.

There is a **habit** some people have developed. Giving up meeting together. They were disconnecting from the gathered people of God. Paul says that’s dangerous, because when we drift from the body, we often drift quietly.

However, over time, isolation can reshape your heart.

I will let you in on another secret. 90% of people who miss eight (8) weeks in row, do not reengage with the church. They reinvest that time in other activities (camping, volunteering). The only safeguard is small group involvement.

You can’t “one another” by yourself. You can’t be encouraged and encourage others in the way Hebrews describes if you’re always disconnected from the people God has placed around you. We need each other.

What do we do? Start with presence. Make gathering with God’s people a priority, because your presence matters more than you think.

Finally, practice consistency. Encouragement becomes powerful over time.

One word can matter deeply, but a pattern of encouragement can help build a life. A church becomes healthy as ordinary people repeatedly choose to show up, speak life, and help one another keep going.

Here’s the challenge for this week: choose one person and intentionally encourage them. Don’t keep it vague. Don’t wait for the perfect moment. Ask God to bring someone to mind, and then take a step.