

Encourage One Another

Pastors Ed & Melissa

Scripture

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Thought

The Greek word for encourage is “parakaleo.” It is closely related to the word “paraklete” which refers to the Holy Spirit - the helper who “comes alongside” us. In the same way, encouragement is found as we “come alongside” each other. The other half of that word, “kaleo,” means “to call.” In other words, encouragement means coming alongside each other and calling forth God’s greatness in each other. We often think of encouragement as saying nice things about a person so they feel good about themselves – but that is closer to the definition of a compliment. Encouraging someone is a whole lot more! It means you are joining them on a journey, giving support and confidence, believing in them, believing for more for them, not letting them settle for less in their lives!

We are better people today because of the encouragement we have received from others. This is certainly true in marriage. I remember many years ago when Pastor Mel Davis said, “I am a more spiritual man today because of my wife.” I can echo the same in my life. Melissa has always inspired me to be better. When we started dating, she seemed light years ahead of my spiritual state and I thought to myself: “she deserves a godly man.” So I decided I should get serious about Jesus. I burned all of my old secular music and started tithing. I didn’t announce these things to Melissa, as if I was trying to impress her - I just decided that if I was going to be the man for her, I was going to be the best man I could possibly be. With influence like no other person could have, she encouraged me to be better. Spouses have a greater power to call out the best in each other more than anyone else on planet earth.

In Hebrews 10, it’s not by chance that this “encouragement to encourage” is mentioned in the same verse as assembling together in God’s house. When we assemble as God’s family, there is another layer of encouragement wrapped around our lives. I remember driving in Los Angeles a few years after the massive 1994 earthquakes that toppled so many bridges and roadways. How did the transportation department rebuild the roads for the future? They wrapped the concrete pillars of highways with an extra layer of steel. The extra layer ensured they would withstand the same way, being part of God’s great church wraps us with a layer of encouragement, so we won’t crumble when the earth shakes. We may not see it, but the extra strength is there in our lives.

Decide today to be an encourager - in your marriage, your family, and in your church. Wrap an extra layer of strength around your children so they can be better and achieve more. Inspire your spouse like no one else on planet earth can do! More than that, always lead your family to God’s house. Let this add another layer of strength to your household. I know my marriage and family are better today because of our church family. I am so grateful for those who have spoken into the lives of my children and caused them to excel beyond where my voice could take them. Let’s walk the journey together and call the best out of each other!

Action Step

Encourage your partner or children by telling them a piece of God’s good future you see for them. Secondly, make meeting in God’s house your standard practice of life. Let your children be able to reflect on their childhood and fondly say “I remember my parents always taking us to church.”

P.S.

Saying Greek words from the Bible will increase your wife’s heartrate.

Prayer

Lord help me to be an encourager and lift people through my influence, whether near or far. I repent in any area where my influence has been a discouragement to others. Help me to help people live in all that You have for them. In Jesus name, amen.

Day 12

