

## "Encouragement"

August 12, 2018



### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Joshua 1:6, 9; Psalm 10:17-18,  
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, Romans 1:11-12;  
ACTS 4:36-37, 9:20-31, 14:8-20;  
Hebrews 10:24-25

### DAY 1

**"Be strong and courageous [be encouraged], because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give the. Be strong and very courageous [an extra measure of encouragement]...Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."** - Joshua 1:6, 9

- Joshua found himself in a huge dilemma. Moses was now dead and the mantle of leadership was passed to Joshua. What do you think was going through his mind when this reality hit him?
- We know God to be many things: creator, redeemer, sustainer, healer...the list goes on. Does this passage help you to understand God more profoundly as **encourager**?
- Webster defines the word **encourage** to mean: *"Give support, confidence, or hope to someone; give support and advice to (someone) so that they will do or continue to do something; help or stimulate (an activity, state, or view) to develop."* How do you define encourage or encouragement in your own words?

## DAY 2

Major league baseball player Ron Guidry had taken enough. When the management of the New York Yankees decided he needed more development and sent him back down to their farm team, he told his wife, "That's it. I'm not going back to the minor leagues. I quit!"

The Guidrys packed their stuff and headed back to their hometown. At a restaurant near their house, Guidry's wife's persistent encouragement paid off. He decided to report to his minor league team and give it one more shot.

The next year, Ron Guidry won the Cy Young Award as the best pitcher in baseball. He will never forget the power of encouragement and how it turned the most disappointing circumstances into a breeding ground for success.

- **Think about a time when you felt discouraged. What was going on?**
- **How does your circumstance relate to the outcome of Ron Guidry's story?**
- **Pastor Bob mentioned some of his favorite stories of people in Scripture whose lives encourage him. He mentioned King David and the Psalms, Nehemiah, Noah, Jeremiah. Whose story in the Bible is your favorite when you think of encouragement?**

## DAY 3

**"You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more." - Psalm 10:17-18**

**"May the Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in very good deed and word." - 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**

**"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong-that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith."**  
-Romans 1:11-12

In all three Scriptures above the writers make it plain that God is the source of all encouragement. It begins with God and is translated to we who know God. Reflect on each of the Scriptures provided today.

- In what ways do you find God encouraging you or others who are feeling afflicted? How is God making his presence known in these circumstances?
- Paul writes of God's "eternal" encouragement. Reflect on this term, "eternal." What does he mean?
- In the Romans passage, Paul reminds us the importance of our "mutually encouraging one another by our faith." When have you encouraged another fellow believer? What about a non-believer? Are we also to encourage them? Why? Why not?

## **DAY 4**

**Read ACTS 4:36-37; 9:20-31; 14:8-20**

- In today's Scriptures, we learn of the life of Barnabas. As you read the cited Scriptures, what do you notice Barnabas doing that makes him an encourager?
- How was Barnabas successful in helping the disciples to trust in Saul?

- When confronted with the challenges of ministry, what would Barnabas do?
- Barnabas' name translates to "Son of Encouragement." If your name could be translated, what would the translation be? Why?

## DAY 5

**"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."** -Hebrews 10:24-25

- As we have learned, we all need a good word from time to time. All of us benefit from someone who pats us on the back and says, "Atta boy! Atta girl!" This person in our life is our Barnabas. Who is your Barnabas?
- Just as we need an encourager, life wouldn't be complete unless we too encourage another. The writer of Hebrews stresses this in the lead passage for the day. Who are you encouraging? Who's Barnabas are you?
- Last Sunday Pastor Bob mentioned the 2 AM friend. This person is more than a surface level friend. A 2 AM friend is someone you can call any time of day and no matter what they are doing, they will drop everything and come be with you. That is a Barnabas. What would your life look like if you had a handful of these kinds of friends? How would someone else's life be blessed if you were that kind of friend to them?
- Lastly, some of the great hymns describe Jesus as our best friend. How is the Lord Jesus your encourager?