

we encouraged one another daily?

“But **encourage one another daily**, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness”

Heb 3:13

Encourage *verb* [en-kur-ij] - to make (someone) more determined, hopeful, or confident

Parakaleō *Greek* - same root as parakletos (comforter) used to describe the Holy Spirit

How often do you look back on situations/opportunities and wonder if you would have done things differently if you’d had more courage to take a risk? Do you, sometimes, find it difficult to step out and do the things you feel God has called you to? Are there areas in your life that you can find it hard to submit to God or be obedient to His word in? I think all of us would answer “yes” to at least one of these, which is why **encouragement is key to our Christian walk**.

What Does The Bible Say About Encouragement?

We know we need encouragement as scripture tells us that things won’t (always) be easy (John 15:18-21, 16:33), we will need to persevere (Heb 10:32-36, James 1:2-4), to hold fast to the truth (Phi 4:1,8) and to not be deceived and hardened by sin (Heb 3:13).

We also know that none of this is possible by ourselves (John 15:5). Thankfully, God has not left us alone, He has given us the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:31), and each other (1 Thes 5:11-15), to be an encouragement so that we can achieve all He has planned for us (Heb 10:36).

How Do We Encourage Each Other?

There are two main forms of encouragement, passive and active:

Passive - *general* - e.g. being an example, speaking positively, providing material or vocal support, praying for others in personal/corporate prayer times.

Active - *specific* - e.g. stepping in, walking alongside, praying for/with someone about a specific situation/need, “making a personal commitment to someone else’s journey, investing in them, being there to lift them up when they feel alone, exhausted and uncertain” (Paraphrase of Robb Richardson - Wells Fargo).

This Month’s Challenge... Each day, ask God to highlight someone that needs to be encouraged and for the Holy Spirit to show you opportunities to encourage those around you. Make a point of sharing what God has been speaking to you about, or scriptures you have found encouraging, with your home group, someone else at church, another believer or someone you know who doesn’t yet know Jesus.
At the end of the month, don’t stop, try to make encouragement a daily “habit”