



Building Up The Local Church

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore encourage one another,
and build up one another, just as you
also are doing”.

Introduction

- The Church is the House of God.
- The Church is the temple of God.
- The Church is the body of Christ.
- The Church is the collection of the saved.
- Jesus built His church on the fact that He is the Son of God, the Christ (Matthew 16:18).
- This Church is universal.

Introduction

- But what about the local church.
- For the most part it carries the same identity as the universal church, but is limited in scope to the local area.
- The place where Christians gather together and agree to work together to accomplish what God wants them to do.
- The problem is that while the universal Church is perfect, the local church is not.



The Local Church

- *We should be the first to say that we are not perfect.*
- *Yet perfection is (or should be) our goal.*
- *One of our problems lies in the fact that we each have to deal with the storms of life.*
- *Satan is relentless in his dealings with us.*
- *1 Peter 5:8 “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”.*



The Local Church

- *All who are part of the local church are fighting to live faithfully to Christ in the midst of a perilous and sinful world.*
- *Some of our number have given in to Satan and his devices.*
- *Being a Christian is no cakewalk.*
- *That is why we need our Christian family.*
- *That is why we need each other.*

We Need Each Other

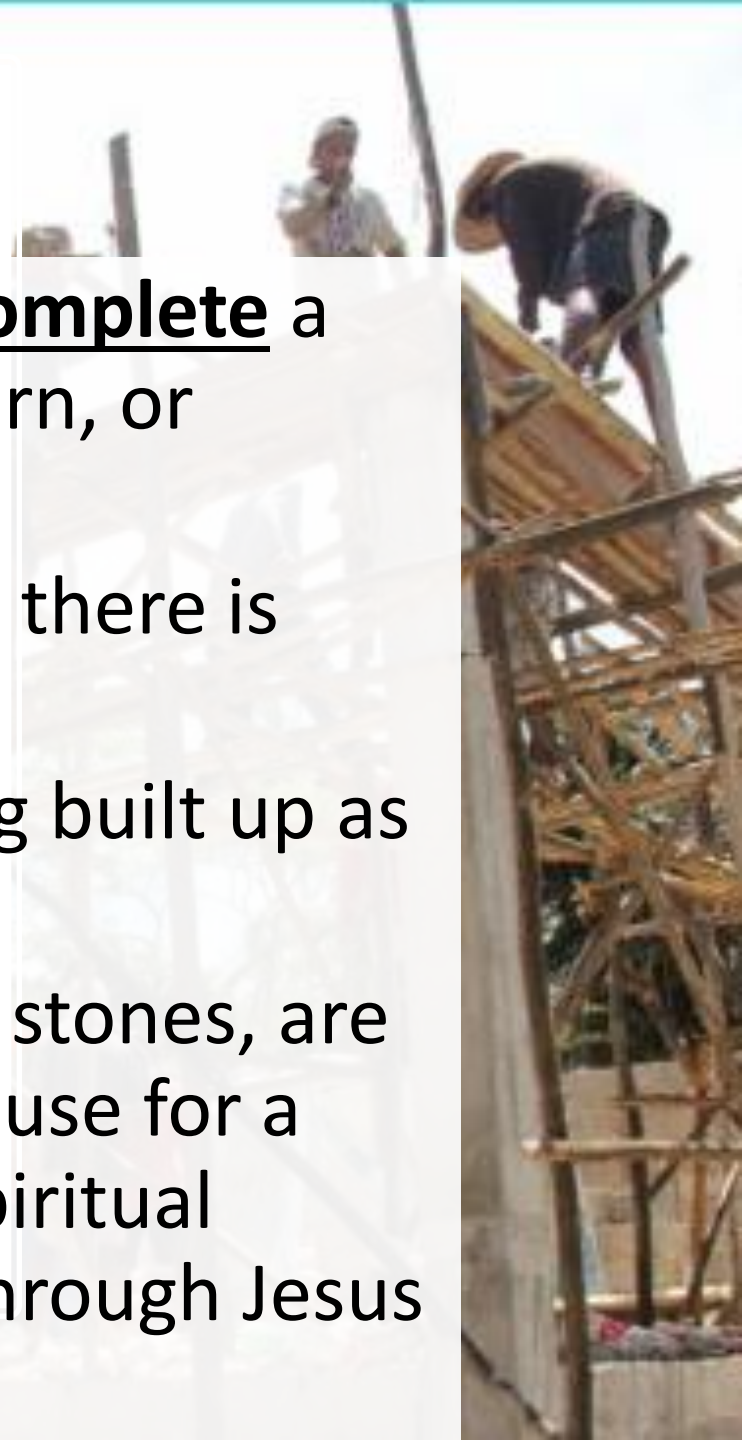
- It is not good to be alone (Genesis 2:18).
- We need encouragement.
- We need strength.
- Where does this strength come from?
- Part by what I do for myself.
- Part by what God supplies.
- But mostly, by the encouragement of my brethren.



- The brethren there were encouraging each other and that was building them up.
- They already had the foundation of Christ.
- They had the foundation of the apostles doctrine.
- They recognized their duty to build each other up.

Being Built Up

- The idea of building up is to **complete** a structure a home, building, barn, or whatever.
- If we are not seeking to finish, there is really no need to get started.
- Peter tells us that we are being built up as living stones.
- 1 Peter 2:5 “you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”.





Being Built Up

- Paul addressed the Ephesians as to this building up.
- Ephesians 4:12 “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ”.
- Ephesians 4:16 “from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love”.

PAUL

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JAMES C. LEWIS

God's Word



We Need God's Word

- We need to be familiar with it,
- We need to share it with others.
- Teaching others what God's word reveals should be an encouragement to them.
- At least if they are trying to please God.
- God's word is our guide and instruction manual, rulebook, and pattern.



We Need To Trust Each Other

- What you expect to happen is usually the end result.
- “Accept what you expect”
- If you are pessimistic, things will never happen.
- If you are optimistic they can happen, but only if your expectation is reasonable.
- Otherwise you become disappointed.

We Need To Trust Others

- *The Hebrews writer conveys how this is to be done.*
- *Although he rebuked them several times, and he warned them to be on guard, he still expressed the optimism that they would become more faithful and receive better things (spiritually speaking).*
- *We just need more members who will say to each other: “You Can Do It”.*

We Need To Encourage Others

- Paul encouraged the Ephesians
- Ephesians 4:1 “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,”
- Hebrews 10:24-25 “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more, as you see the day drawing near”.

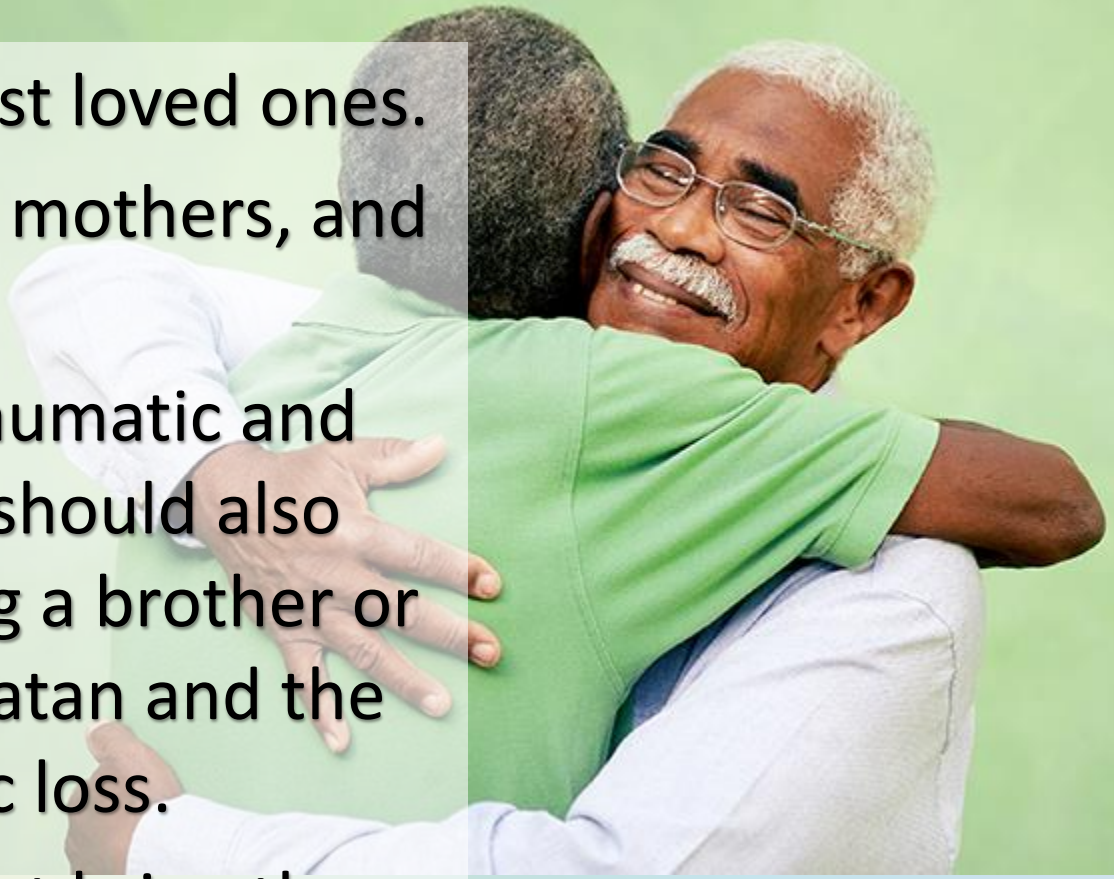




We Need To Love Others

- Love should describe the relationship that we all share in our congregation.
- Love is the more excellent way
- 1 Corinthians 12:31 “But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way”.
- 1 Corinthians 13:13 “But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love”.

- Many of us have lost loved ones.
- Husbands, fathers, mothers, and sadly children.
- While these are traumatic and horrific losses, we should also consider that losing a brother or sister in Christ to Satan and the world to be a tragic loss.
- Of course we cannot bring the physically dead back to life; we do have the opportunity to encourage an erring brother or sister to reconsider their mistake and return to the Lord.



We Need To
Love Others

We Need To Love Others

- At least, we should try to do this.
- Not trying surely demonstrates a lack of love and concern over their souls.
- **The worst hate crime—to not warn souls about hell.**
- Formal worship does not take place every day.
- But encouragement is something we can do always, and we should.
- We should be willing to share our spiritual thoughts with our brethren anytime.

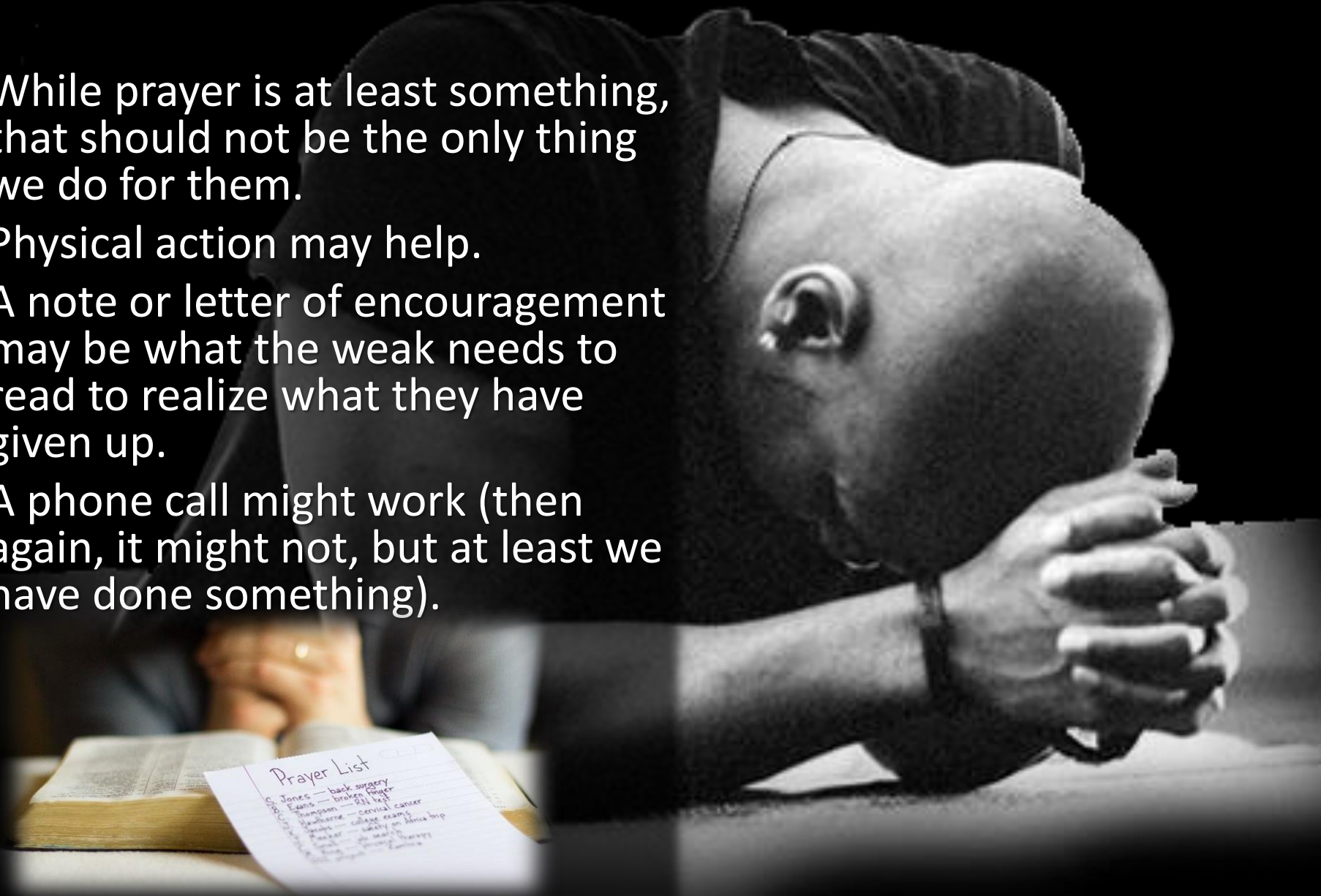
We Need To Pray For Others

- 1 Thessalonians 5:25 “Brethren, pray for us”.
- I need you praying for me.
- We sing the song with the words: “for you I am praying”.
- Perhaps we should be telling others this.
- We pray for the sick, and those traveling.
- Why not pray for the spiritually weak and sick and those who have left the safety of God’s protecting hands.



We Need To Pray For Others

- While prayer is at least something, that should not be the only thing we do for them.
- Physical action may help.
- A note or letter of encouragement may be what the weak needs to read to realize what they have given up.
- A phone call might work (then again, it might not, but at least we have done something).



Conclusion

- *We need to treat each other as if their soul depends upon us.*
- *Yes we are our brothers keeper.*
- *And yes we share a responsibility to assist them to find their way.*
- *Are you building people up,*
- *Or are you tearing them down?*
- *What are you doing to build up the local church?*