

Message from God’s Life-Giving Word
July 12, 2020
Holding onto Hope - Encouraging

An Epidemic of Chronic Negativity

*So if there is any **encouragement** in **Christ**, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in **full accord and of one mind**. Philippians 2:1-2*

- Our God is an _____ God

*For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had **no rest**, but we were afflicted at every turn—**fighting without** and **fear within**. But God, who **comforts** the downcast, comforted us by the coming of **Titus**. 2 Corinthians 7:5-6*

ENCOURAGED to be an ENCOURAGER

1. Encourage others _____

*Let us consider how to **stir up** one another to **love** and **good works**, not neglecting to meet together, as is the **habit** of some, but **encouraging** one another, especially now... Hebrews 10:24-25*

2. Encourage others _____

*For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some **spiritual gift** to **strengthen** you—that is, that we may be mutually **encouraged** by each other's **faith**, both yours and mine. Romans 1:11-12*

3. Encourage _____ in the Lord

*But David **strengthened** himself in the **Lord his God**. 1 Samuel 30:6*

Remember...

*May our 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 every good deed and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

Next Steps

1. Journal the following: Have you ever given or received a not-so-encouraging response to a new outfit, haircut, etc.? What happened? How did you feel? What happened the last time someone encouraged you?
 2. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 and 2 Corinthians 7:5-6. Where does our courage as Christians come from? How does Jesus encourage you? What did He do that proves His eternal love and encouragement for you? Now, who can you encourage daily? How could you take it a step further and spiritually encourage them? Do you identify with Paul’s, “battles on the outside and fear on the inside”? Why or why not? If so, what got you through?
 3. Have you ever felt prompted to encourage someone? How did it turn out? Who do you know who is great at encouraging people? How do they go about it? Which of this week’s three points is most difficult for you? What are some practical steps you can take to better encourage others and yourself this week?
- REMEMBER:** *Your time in daily devotion and prayer is not just for your benefit. It’s also for the benefit of others. Share what God is teaching you.*