

## THE WEEKLY WORD (June 12, 2019)

**Word:** ENCOURAGEMENT

**Passage:** Hebrew 3:12-14

**Key Verses:** Hebrews 3:13

*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)*

### Commentary:

#### WHO NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT?

When I consider this question, I am reminded of a quote from S. Truitt Cathy founder of Chick-fil-A.

"I have traveled the world and discovered a universal method to determine if a person needs encouragement – that person is breathing."

As we examine the world around us and read the scripture, we are reminded that we all need encouragement. As we are commanded to "love one another," encouragement of others should be a vital part of our daily walk with Jesus Christ. Because encouragement is so important to His church, God doesn't merely recommend it; He explicitly commands it (1 Thess. 4:18, 5:11; Heb. 3:13).

#### WHY WE NEED ENCOURAGEMENT

God commanded that His people encourage each other because He knows we need it. In the Gospel of John, Jesus warned that "in this world you will have trouble," which He then followed with a much needed encouragement: "But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

We live in a broken world where everything calls us toward selfishness and despair. Sin steals joy, our bodies break down, our plans falter, our dreams die, our perspective dims. We are promised suffering (1 Pet. 4:12), persecution (John 15:20; 2 Tim. 3:12), and trials of various kinds (James 1:2-3).

When encouragement is absent from the lives of people, they will feel unloved, unimportant, useless, and forgotten. God knows His people are in need of grace-filled reminders, so He calls us to encourage each other every day until His Son returns (Heb. 3:13).

#### WHAT IS ENCOURAGEMENT?

Encouragement is shared with the hopes that it will lift someone's heart towards God (Col. 4:8). It points out evidence of grace in another's life to help them see that God is using them. It points people to God's promise and assures them that all they face is under **His control**. Encouragement is an essential way of extending grace to each other.

### Challenge:

Ask God to demonstrate His love through you by showing you creative ways to encourage others.

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, help us to be encouragers to those around us, give us discernment and the right words to say. May our words and actions be edifying to you and those we are to encourage. May our encouragements point others to the Hope that lies within a relationship with you.

**Author:** Buddy Childs, Office Administrator