

## Introduction: Life is hard! God is good! I am weak!

Sometimes the only difference between success and failure...

... is a simple word of \_\_\_\_\_!

## What is encouragement?

- Meaning of the word:
  
- Use in the New Testament:
  
- Use in the Old Testament:

## Summary:

We are to aid, help, support, and intercede for each other by means of comforting in affliction, strengthening in faith, and motivating toward righteousness. In short, encouragement (building up others) is taking the **truth of Scripture** by life and word in the context of meaningful and caring relationships, to **restore perspective** and, thereby, provide hope which carries us through affliction and above complacency.

### Why is encouragement so important?

- Because God commands it 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- Because sin is deceitful Hebrews 3:13
- Because spiritual growth requires it 1 Thessalonians 3:2
- Because we lose perspective so easily 2 Corinthians 7:3-7

### What does Biblical encouragement look like?

#### The Hebrews 10 Model of Encouragement:

<sup>19</sup> **Since** *therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,<sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh ...*

<sup>21</sup> *and since {we have} a great priest over the house of God ...*

<sup>22</sup> **let us draw near** *with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled {clean} from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

<sup>23</sup> **Let us hold fast** *the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful...*

<sup>24</sup> *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,<sup>25</sup> 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.*

## Examining the structure of Hebrews 10:19-25

### 1. Two facts – Two eternal truths

- ❖ **Since** we have access into God’s presence. Hebrews 10:19
  
- ❖ **Since** we never go into God’s presence alone. Hebrews 10:21

### 2. Three exhortations – Three timeless principles

- “Let us draw near ...” Hebrews 10:22  
**Biblical encouragement restores perspective**
  
- “Let us hold fast ...” Hebrews 10:23  
**Biblical encouragement promotes endurance**
  
- “Let us stimulate one another ...” Hebrews 10:24  
**Biblical encouragement inspires spiritual growth**

### How?

1. By stimulating one another to Christ-like attitudes and actions in relationships.
2. By refusing to allow one another to “drift” from regular attendance at worship or small group times.
3. By reminding one another of the certainty and accountability involved in Christ’s return.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who do you know who needs some encouragement?
2. What **truth** (Biblical passage) would help restore their perspective? Endure their adversity? Be stimulated to spiritual growth?
3. What would be the best way to communicate your encouragement to them?
  - ~ In person
  - ~ In a group
  - ~ By phone
  - ~ Through some act of kindness
  - ~ By letter
  - ~ By meeting a need
4. When, this week, will you become God’s agent of blessing in this person’s life?
5. Pray for those you have determined to encourage this week.