

Aug 29, 2021

Encouraging Encouragers to Encourage

Philippians 2:1

The Source of Encouragement

Rom. 15:5-6 | IITim. 2:16-17 |

- a. It comes from **GOD**
- b. What He **HAS DONE** for us in Christ.
- c. What He **CONTINUES TO DO** for us in Christ.

The Result of Encouragement

Luke 21:33 | Romans 3:23

- d. When you build on a **DIVINE** foundation you get what God can produce.
- e. **COMFORT** in His love
- f. **FELLOWSHIP** with His Spirit
- g. Let go of **SELF** and **FOCUS** on others.

A World of Trouble

John 16:32-33 | Num 13:30

- h. Jesus found encouragement from **HIS FATHER**
- i. Jesus told the disciples to **LOOK** to Him for encouragement
- j. Keep your eyes on Him to **ALWAYS** be an **ENCOURAGEMENT**

Life Group Questions

- 1) Paul asks four rhetorical questions in Philippians 2:1.
 - a) "If there is any consolation in Christ." Read Luke 2:25, 2 Cor. 1:5 and 2 Thess 2:16 and discuss the answer to his question.
 - b) "Comfort of Love" 2 Corinthians 1:3 Paraklesis is more than just soothing sympathy. Comfort in latin (fortis) also means "brave." Discuss how the love of God makes us strong and brave.
 - c) "Fellowship of the Holy Spirit" Koinonia is sharing things in common. What does this look like in the life of a Christian?

- d) "affection and mercy" Paul assumes every believer knows of the affection of God and His mercy. Do you consider God's affection and mercy on a regular basis? Share this with the group.
- 2) Something can clearly be the will of God, but if the majority is lacking in the gift of encouragement, God's will is not done. Discuss the outcome of this lack in the story of Joshua and Caleb in Numbers 13.
- 3) Why must we not love the world and the things of the world? Discuss in relation to Matthew 6:24. How do you know if you're trying to serve both?

On Your Own

- 4) Do you have a friend that accepts you just as you are? A person who you don't have to be fake and hypocritical, but can be real because you have the same basic values and goals? Are you that friend to someone? We can love what the Holy Spirit loves, hate what He hates and feel great peace and comfort in His presence. We can be comforted by the Comforter, and be encouraged by our fellowship.
 - a) 1 Thessalonians 5:11
 - b) Isaiah 40:31
 - c) Isaiah 43:2
 - d) Matthew 11:28
 - e) John 16:33

"We can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" 2 Corinthians 1:4

PRAYER REQUESTS

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