



SUNDAY SERMON

RECAP

12 October 2025

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Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: Encourage

Pastor: John Roebert

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11 (NKJV)

We are living in the last days. It can't be too long before Christ returns. And it is not easy living in the last days.

- There is hostility and persecution towards Christians.
- There is a hatred towards what is good.
- Many people are not open to Biblical truths, yet God has called us to be salt and light so we cannot keep quiet.

In 2024 almost 4500 Christians were killed for their faith. 70% of those were in Nigeria. According to Open doors 380 million Christians are being persecuted.

Even in SA the enemy wants to persecute the church. The CRL Committee in the country has formed a section 22 committee to regulate the church. This is not okay. The church should be an independent voice in the nation.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11 (NKJV)

Therefore comfort one another! Edify one another! Encourage one another!

In the Message Bible it reads, "Speak encouraging words to one another, build up hope."

It is common nowadays to criticize and break down. But encouragement lifts us up.

There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread – Mother Teresa

You can accomplish more by encouraging someone's good points than criticizing their weaknesses. God has called us to be people of hope that will speak life and encouragement to those around us.

1. Cultivate a lifestyle of encouraging people.

Is this something that you do, something that you see as important?

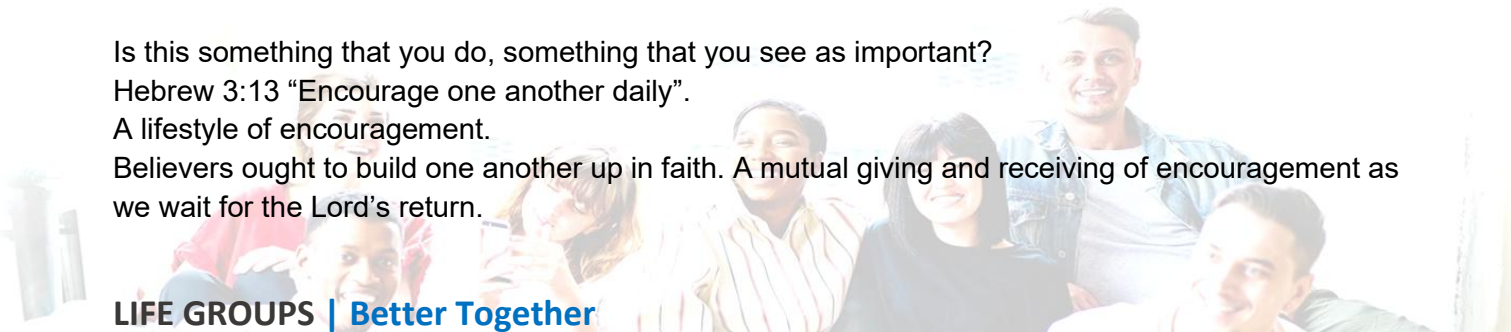
Hebrew 3:13 "Encourage one another daily".

A lifestyle of encouragement.

Believers ought to build one another up in faith. A mutual giving and receiving of encouragement as we wait for the Lord's return.

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When you interact with someone you can either encourage them or discourage them. Choose encouragement!

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

We need to build people up according to their needs. Encourage them in line with the needs that they have.

Encouragement

En – To put in

Courage – Confidence and strength

To put confidence and strength into someone. Through our words we can do this for others.

We all need encouragement. Make sure you ask the right people. Need people that will encourage and comfort you. Be careful of “Job’s counsellors.”

Encouragement is essential for successful Christian living.

2. Encouragement breathes life into people’s hearts.

Encouragement makes us feel like life is worth living, that we are loved, that God is for us, that we can do this!

Encouragement is oxygen for the soul – John Maxwell.

Steven Riser – If you deprive a soul of oxygen, it will shrivel and live a fearful existence. In extreme cases it may even wish it were dead.

Encouragement causes a soul to breathe again and come alive.

Your children need to hear words of affirmation spoken over their lives. Parents, tell your children that you are proud of them. Father God said to Jesus, “This is my beloved Son in Him I am well pleased. Listen to him.

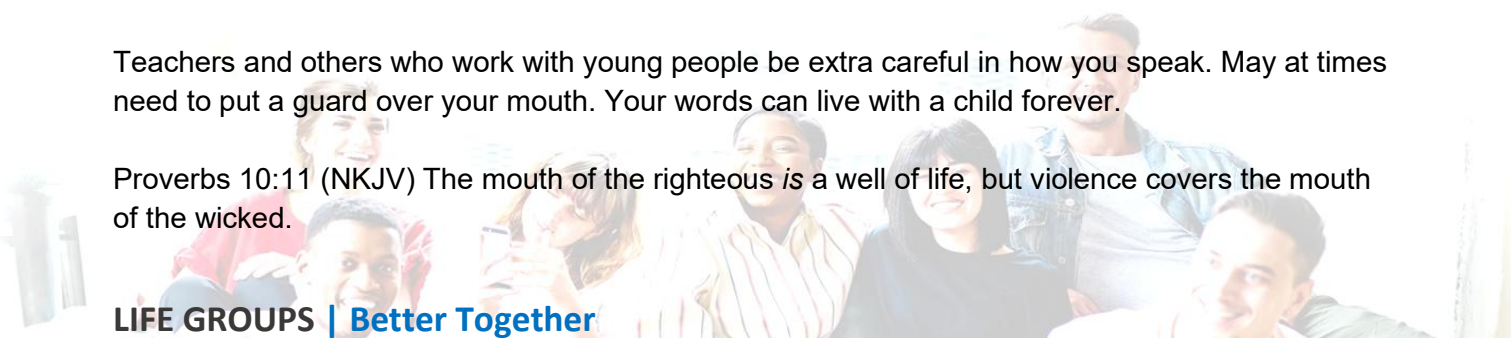
Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV) Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Teachers and others who work with young people be extra careful in how you speak. May at times need to put a guard over your mouth. Your words can live with a child forever.

Proverbs 10:11 (NKJV) The mouth of the righteous *is* a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

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The Apostle Paul was an encourager. Would start his letters with “Grace and peace be with you.”

Paul was a life-giving person.

3. Some people have a spiritual gift of encouragement, yet we are all called to encourage.

Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

God gave gifts because He knew that the body needed to be served and helped.

Gift of faith is the special ability to stimulate the faith of others.

4. New levels of encouragement will add growth and vibrancy to the church.

In the early church there was a man named Barnabas. His real name was Joseph. Barnabas was his nickname because the name means “son of encouragement”.

Acts 11:22-25 speaks of the impact that Barnabas was having on the local church in Antioch. He encouraged them to continue serving the Lord with purpose of heart. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. As a result, many people were added to the church.

May the Lord raise up many more Barnabas’s that will bring vibrancy to the church.

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



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