

July 21, 2026

Notice The Needs Around You

July Series: Stronger Together

Week Focus: The Power of Encouragement

Scripture – 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*

Devotional Reflection

One of the greatest acts of love is simply noticing people. In a world where many feel overlooked, forgotten, or invisible, God calls His people to see others the way He sees them. First Thessalonians 5:11 reminds believers to “encourage one another and build each other up.” This command assumes that we are paying attention to the people around us. You cannot encourage someone you never notice. Encouragement begins with awareness, and awareness begins when we choose to look beyond ourselves.

It is easy to become consumed by our own responsibilities, schedules, and concerns. We often rush from one obligation to the next without realizing that the people around us may be carrying burdens we cannot see. The coworker who seems quiet may be struggling with discouragement. The church member who always serves with a smile may be fighting a private battle. The neighbor who waves every morning may be praying for a breakthrough. While we only see what is on the surface, God sees every hidden burden, and many times He chooses to reveal those needs through His people.

Jesus consistently demonstrated this kind of awareness. He noticed people others overlooked. He stopped for those others hurried past. He listened to those who felt unheard and showed compassion to those who felt forgotten. While the crowds saw interruptions, Jesus saw opportunities to minister. His example reminds us that some of the greatest moments of ministry happen when we are willing to slow down, pay attention, and respond with compassion.

Often, people do not need a perfect solution—they simply need to know that someone cares. A thoughtful question, a listening ear, a sincere prayer, or a simple message saying, “I’ve been thinking about you,” can become a powerful reminder of God’s love. What may seem ordinary to us can become extraordinary in God’s hands. He often uses simple acts of kindness to strengthen weary hearts and restore hope.

Today, ask the Holy Spirit to make you more aware of the people around you. Pray that He would help you see beyond appearances and recognize opportunities to encourage someone. You may be the answer to a prayer someone has been quietly praying. Never underestimate what God can do through a heart that is attentive, compassionate, and willing to care.

Focus for Today

God uses people who are willing to notice others and respond with compassion.

Practice

- Begin today by asking God to help you see people through His eyes.
 - Reach out to someone you haven't spoken to in a while.
 - Take time to genuinely ask someone how they are doing—and listen carefully.
 - Pray that God will make you sensitive to opportunities to encourage someone today.
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Prayer

Father, thank You for always seeing me, even when others may overlook me. Help me become more aware of the people You place in my path each day. Open my eyes to those who are hurting, discouraged, lonely, or weary. Give me a compassionate heart that is willing to slow down, listen, and respond with love. Use me to encourage someone today and remind them that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved by You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

Who in your life may be carrying a burden that others cannot see, and how can you intentionally remind them today that they are not alone?