

OVERTAKEN #5

encourage(def): to make someone more determined, hopeful or confident making them more likely to do something; to spur on; to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope

THE MODELS: FATHER, SON, AND FILLED FIRST FOLLOWERS

"The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice:

"This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life." Matthew 3:16-17

"Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 3:2-6 NIV

"Some of the men from Cyprus and Cyrene who had come to Antioch started talking to Greeks, giving them the Message of the Master Jesus. God was pleased with what they were doing and put his stamp of approval on it—quite a number of the Greeks believed and turned to the Master. When the church in Jerusalem got wind of this, they sent Barnabas to Antioch to check on things. As soon as he arrived, he saw that God was behind and in it all. He threw himself in with them, got behind them, urging them to stay with it the rest of their lives. He was a good man that way, enthusiastic and confident in the Holy Spirit's ways. The community grew large and strong in the Master." Acts 11:20-24 MSG

TRUE ENCOURAGEMENT _____.

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"See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." Hebrews 3:12-13 NIV

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

BIG IDEA:

LANDING ENCOURAGEMENT

SPIRIT-EMPOWERED MEN _____.

"So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching." Hebrews 10:23-24 MSG

SPIRIT-EMPOWERED MEN _____.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Prov. 18:21

“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” Ephesians 4:29 NLT

SPIRIT-EMPOWERED MEN _____.

“So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church....What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.” 1 Corinthians 12:14, 26 NIV

“Perhaps you think we’re saying these things just to defend ourselves. No, we tell you this as Christ’s servants, and with God as our witness. Everything we do, dear friends, is to strengthen you.” 2 Corinthians 12:19 MSG

WILL YOU BE THE ONE WHO STRENGTHENS OR WEAKENS OTHERS?

“Every bit of my commitment is for the purpose of building you up, after all, not tearing you down.” 2 Corinthians 10:8 MSG

Holy Spirit...Thank You for reminding me that in our family we encourage each other. Thank You for modeling this in the Father and in the Son, and in Your uplifting works through Your people. Help me to remember to use my gifts and skills that You have given me to encourage others. Help me to listen well to other believers so that I can encourage, celebrate with and strengthen my brothers and sisters well. Help me to make every effort not to compete with any Christian but to connect with them to encourage their faithfulness to You. Heal the parts of me that cause me to withhold encouragement from others. Reveal the hurts and resentments, the wounds and the insecurities that create jealousy, envy, division, or personality conflicts. Love me out of those immature places of character so that I can be free to encourage those around me, especially those who are followers of Jesus. From this place of freedom and healing in Christ, I accept my commission to exercise Your authority to strengthen every believer I meet for his benefit versus my own. Thank you for this wonderful mission of giving encouragement to others. Fill me and use me to raise the spirit of my brothers and sisters, even as You have raised mine in Christ. For the sake of the Body, In Jesus Name. Amen

FOR DISCUSSION

CAN YOU REMEMBER A MOMENT WHEN ENCOURAGEMENT CAME TO YOU AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME?

WHAT UNSEEN BATTLES AS MEN ARE WE FIGHTING THAT ENCOURAGEMENT CAN HELP?

WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT A MAN WHO IS FREE TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS WITHOUT AGENDA?

HOW IS ENCOURAGING ANOTHER A STEP OF FAITH?

WHO NEEDS MORE OF YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND BUILDING UP IN YOUR LIFE?

