

How do I cultivate my heart actions as an encourager so I can bless my King and build the Kingdom?

"But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." - Hebrews 3.13

A few things about what we are fighting against:

We are susceptible to being deceived. It is the occupation and obsession of Satan to make this happen. *Distractions* are a key strategy. Personal *obsessions* captivate us. *Offending one another* is distractively effective as well. Living *angry* or *fearful* is another. It takes a certain serious-minded vigilance to not fall prey to these kinds of things. We must keep ourselves unencumbered for serving the Master!

This is the beauty of being able to have our conscience cleared every day. If we sin against God we may ask for His forgiveness. If we offend someone we can do our best to make it right. How satisfying is it to have this be an active, intentional part of our spiritual experience?!

A few ideas for how we fight for encouragement:

Intentionally spending time with people is huge.

I try to plan out my upcoming week on Sundays - goals and activities of course - but I also attempt to give just as much attention to people touch points. Who do I know who is excited about something? I can communicate to share it with them. Who is carrying a weight? I can be there with an encouraging word. What is happening in my spiritual life that can add vulnerability and connection to another?

Awareness and *connection* outside of my own orb is key. Looking for daily outlets/avenues to encourage others can include a text, a call, a card - anything that shows others that they matter to God and to me! Even sincerity in greeting others daily can be huge.

The word encourage could be translated *comfort*. In what ways do my actions and words bring comfort to the heart, soul, mind, and body of another?

"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."
- 1Thessalonians 5.11

"We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone." - 1Thessalonians 5.14