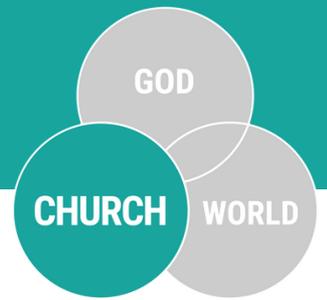


ENCOURAGEMENT

I support and strengthen others in their walk with Jesus.



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Biblical encouragement is more than simply saying kind words or complimenting someone. Yes, those can be a part of biblical encouragement, (and should be a part), but that isn't the main focus of biblical encouragement. Hebrews 10:24-25 gives us a good understanding of biblical encouragement. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 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."

Biblical encouragement is meant to motivate us towards living out lives that reflect the love of Jesus to everyone around us. It is meant to point us back to the love of Jesus, so that we can in turn show that love towards others.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, shows us this progression. "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." Lives of biblical encouragement are responses to the work of Jesus in our lives.

What does biblical encouragement look like?

The first thing we need to understand about biblical encouragement is that it is centered on and focused on Jesus. It begins with us pointing out the work of Jesus in the lives of one another. It progresses to our pointing out how we are reflecting that work of Jesus to others.

Additionally, biblical encouragement reminds us of truth in regards to our identity. It reminds us of how God sees us because of Jesus. It reminds us of who we are in Christ and how that impacts our lives.

Biblical encouragement is not about trying to show how great the person we are trying to encourage is. It is about showing the great love that has been extended to them by a great God, through Jesus. It is about reminding others about the impact of that love and how it changes who we are and what we do.



PROCESS

Think through what you have learned and summarize it on your own words or write out how you would explain it to another person.

PRAY

- Thank God for the new identity you have in Christ. Thank God for the work that is being done in you to transform you into the image of Jesus.

LOOK

- Look for how God is working in the lives of others. Take time to point out what you see in the lives of others.

RESPOND

- Set up a regular time of biblical encouragement. Here's one idea on how you can do that. Set an alarm on your phone. It can be daily or weekly. The alarm is meant to remind you to express biblical encouragement to someone at that moment. Leading up to that alarm, keep an eye out for how God is working and also keep an eye out for someone who might need a reminder of God's working in their life.

