

Father's Day:

The Need For Encouragement

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 06/19/2016



I. Discouraging Times

II. Apostolic Investment

1st Thessalonians 2:9-12

v. 9

Hard Work & Diligence

v. 10

Intentional Role-Models

v. 11-12

Encouraging, Comforting, Imploring

III. Giving & Receiving Encouragement

Personal Reflection

Set aside fifteen minutes this week to pray & respond to the following:

Throughout the past year we have been reminded that God created us to be in community—first with Him & also with one another. Community is the result of mutual commitment to relationships. One important aspect of any significant relationship is encouraging—giving support, confidence & hope to others.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus was an encourager of people from all walks of life. He loved the lost, rejected & despised by lifting them out of their despair & offering them new life. Jesus' ministry of healing, comforting & revealing of truth are a model to all who call Him Lord.

Christians should be encouragers because the world is full of heartbroken people who do not know God & need to see His love in action. Christians are to be ambassadors of God's love.

Being an encourager also benefits the one doing the encouraging. Empathizing with other's struggles & pain, draws us out of self-centeredness & reminds us that there is more to life than personal comfort & pleasure.

Who are the recipients of your encouraging? Are you aware of God's daily efforts to manifest joy in your heart & strengthen you in times of struggle? Does the assurance of His presence motivate & empower you to give support, confidence & hope to others?

Prayerfully thank God for His abiding & ongoing encouraging in your life. Ask Him to give you the desire, words & deeds which can help bring a transformation of hope in the lives of others.