

*We Must Continually Encourage Each Other To Follow Jesus
Because The World Is Continually Encouraging Us Not To Follow Him*

STIR THEM UP



A BIBLICAL AND PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ENCOURAGEMENT IN
21 DAILY READINGS AND ACTIVITIES BASED ON HEBREWS 10:24-25

Jimmy D. Brown

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Introduction: A Little Book About A Very Big Thing

Don't kill people.

That's a big one, right? We see a statement like that, and we take it very seriously. God doesn't want us to commit murder. Got it. Let's not do that.

What else do you have?

Go into the world and make disciples.

Ooooh. Another big one. Again, this is serious business. God does want us to go tell people about Jesus, from those closest to us to those farthest from us. Let's do that.

And there's a lot more where those two came from.

But when you think of all the commandments and instructions in the Bible, one that probably doesn't immediately spring to mind is the one in boldface in the text below...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Here's what you and I need to understand...

Encouragement is a big one.

(They ALL are, actually.)

Think about this for just a moment, because at first glance, it may not seem like "encouraging one another" is anywhere near the same level of seriousness as murder and evangelism. But it is. Here are just a few reasons why...

Encouragement can lift the dejected.

Encouragement can embolden the timid.

Encouragement can affirm the doers.

Encouragement can stimulate the passive.

STIR THEM UP: A Biblical And Practical Guide To Encouragement

Encouragement can refresh the weary.
Encouragement can correct the wayward.
Encouragement can help the needy.
Encouragement can support the able.
Encouragement can motivate the sluggish.
Encouragement can guide the confused.
Encouragement can strengthen the weak.
Encouragement can restore the rebellious.
Encouragement can comfort the hurting.
Encouragement can heal the broken.
Encouragement can motivate the indifferent.
Encouragement can bless the receiver.

And that is by no means an exhaustive list. There are many other entries that could be added, but I hope you get the point.

Encouragement is a very big thing.

Whether we are encouraging one another to go and make disciples or not to go and commit murder, stirring up one another to a life of love and good works has been commanded by God.

And we ought to take that seriously.

That's why I wrote this little book ... to bring "*encouraging one another*" to our attention and give us some ideas so we can take action.

As a bit of housekeeping before we move on to the twenty-one daily readings about Biblical encouragement, let me share a few quick notes...

1. The first five days are sequential in the practical sections and should be completed in chronological order. The remaining entries are in no particular order. You can complete them in any order that is appropriate for you and the people you intend to encourage, choosing to do all of them, some of them or even none of them. Not really, don't choose to do nothing. Ha.
2. Both of the sections for each daily reading are directed at encouraging believers, because that's the context of the commandment. We can, and should, encourage unbelievers as well. Mainly, to put their faith in Jesus. That's called evangelism and isn't within the scope of this guide. Still, many of the principles and practices do apply, and are great to demonstrate the love of Jesus.
3. While the "practical" section will sometimes match with the main point of the "biblical" section,

STIR THEM UP: A Biblical And Practical Guide To Encouragement

it often will not. The action step isn't intended to be a continuation of something shared in the earlier section, but rather a completely independent idea for how to encourage others.

4. Hebrews 10:24-25 is featured at the beginning of each daily reading. Resist the temptation to skip this text, especially after you progress through the book over several days. Instead, make it the first part of what you do each day. Read it. Memorize it. Pray it. Do it. Nothing else written in this book comes anywhere close to being as important as what God says.

With that said, here's my encouragement for you...

*God can change hearts, circumstances, lives, stories and eternities
when you encourage other people in Christ.*

This is a VERY BIG thing.

All For Jesus,

Jimmy D. Brown

Day One

WE MUST CONTINUALLY ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Life in this fallen world is filled with challenges as we follow Jesus. There is temptation to fight. There is suffering to endure. There is busyness to manage. There is distraction to overcome. There is joy to experience. There is purpose to fulfil. There is good to do. One of God's means of grace for us to be who we were made to be and do what we were made to do is mutual encouragement. It is essential that we each do our part in admonishing, building up and cheering on others. We must continually encourage one another to follow Jesus because the world is continually encouraging us not to follow Him.

Practical...

ASK GOD FOR GRACE TO BE AN ENCOURAGER. In order to get going and keep going, it is essential that you pray for Him to make you into the encourager He means for you to be. Ask Him for grace to be "ready, willing and able." Ready, because you are looking for opportunities. Willing, because this is a priority in your life. Able, because you have prepared in advance. He will graciously open your mind, your eyes, your heart, your mouth, your hands and your arms so you can do your part to encourage other believers. You don't have to figure this out on your own. Pray! He's already got it figured out for you.

Day Two

YOU BE THE ENCOURAGER WHO SHOWS UP IN THEIR LIVES

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up **one another** to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

The call to spur on one another is to begin locally and extend globally. First, we should encourage those who regularly meet together with us for corporate worship. Second, we should encourage other brothers and sisters in Christ who may not be a part of our local church. "One another" should be taken to mean all believers that we have the opportunity to build up in their faith and service. Each of us has been divinely positioned by the gracious will of God to speak life and do good to people who need it. Soon Jesus will put an end to all discouragement. Until then, He works through us to fight it here and now.

Practical...

MAKE A LIST OF PEOPLE WHO NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED. Who do you know that needs to be built up in their faith? Every. Single. Believer. Starting with your closest connections and extending outward, make a list of the Christians in your life. They can live near you or far from you. These include family, friends, church members, co-workers, neighbors, team-mates, etc. Don't assume some of them already have a lot of encouragers ... assume they don't. You be the encourager who shows up in their lives. Whether your list is 25 or 250, God has put people into your life so you can spur them on as they follow Jesus.

Day Three

WE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER BY FIRSTLY SHOWING UP

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

While there are a number of reasons to gather together, one of them is the mutual encouragement of believers to persevere in our faith. We encourage one another by firstly showing up. This includes being present in each other's lives through corporate worship gatherings, small group meetings and one-on-one settings. It's an intentional investment of our time that God uses to strengthen the faith of us all. Showing up isn't limited to being physically present, but it always requires being personally present. As we rely on the presence of Jesus who never leaves nor forsakes us, we can be there for each other too.

Practical...

PUT ENCOURAGING OTHERS ON YOUR SCHEDULE. Jobs. Events. Appointments. Vacations. Do you know what you are most likely not to forget? Things you put on your schedule. It is important that you intentionally set aside time on a regular basis to encourage the people on the list you made. Whether this is five minutes per day to work through your list one person at a time or one time per week that you reach out to five people, it is essential that you create a regular routine. Mark it on your calendar. Set a reminder on your phone. Your schedule helps ensure that encouraging others gets done.

Day Four

LOOK, LISTEN AND LET THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAD YOU

Biblical...

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Encouraging others to be who they were made to be in Christ and do what they were made to do in Christ requires serious thought on our part. Fulfilling our assigned role in the regular strengthening of one another's faith comes from purposeful concentration on what others need to get them going and keep them going. We are to notice one another. We are to focus on one another. We are to think about one another. Then, after prayerfully considering how we can spur on one another, we act. By God's grace, our eyes will be opened to what we can say and do that will help others take their own steps of faith.

Practical...

LOOK, LISTEN AND LET THE SPIRIT LEAD YOU. You're showing up in the lives of those you know. Now what? You take note of what is going on in the lives of those you know. You look and listen for areas where others need to be encouraged. If they are down, appropriately lift them up. If they are doing good things, enthusiastically spur them on. If they are disobedient, lovingly call them out. It is important that you pay attention before you take action so you can rightly comfort, cheer or correct in a way that builds up others. The Spirit will lead you to people and then lead you in how to encourage them.

Day Five

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST IS PRACTICAL

Biblical...

*And let us consider **how to** stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Encouraging one another in Christ is practical. It happens because we take the step which God places on our hearts and in front of us. We say something. We do something. Whether it's a text, email, phone call, social media comment or personal conversation, an encouraging word is to be delivered. Whether it's a task completed, a gift given, an event attended, or a request granted, an encouraging work is to be done. Jesus both spoke to and served people in real ways. People knew when their stomachs, hearts and minds had been filled by Him. We will become Christlike encouragers when we take similar action.

Practical...

DECIDE THE FORMAT THAT BEST FITS. There are many different ways to reach out to those on your list and schedule. Text and social media messaging. Phone and video calls. Printed notes and cards. In-person meetups. Which option you choose should fit the occasion. The amount of time required, the type of encouragement needed, and the number of people involved will inform your selection. Be prepared to both schedule these actions and to interrupt your schedule to take these actions when spontaneous opportunities appear. Note "how" you will encourage those on your list and get started.

Day Six

GET OTHERS TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to **stir up** one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Usually stirring things up brings about negative results such as stirring a hornet's nest. But in this context, it means getting others to take positive action for the kingdom of God. We are to spur them on in their faithfulness to Jesus. When they get started, we cheer them. When they get weary, we help them. When they get lazy, we admonish them. Over and over again, we positively prompt and provoke and persuade others to give their lives to the things that will matter for eternity. We convince, not coerce, by reminding one another of the promises God makes to those who live by faith in Jesus.

Practical...

REACH OUT TO SEE HOW OTHERS ARE DOING. While you can learn where others need encouragement by observing them, you can also learn by asking them. Scheduling regular "check-ins" with those on your list is a great way to stay current on what is happening in their lives. Generally, you can inquire about all things. Specifically, you can inquire about a particular thing. Let them share as little or much as they feel comfortable sharing. The important thing is to check in. It takes just seconds to ask, "How are you doing?" or "How can I pray for you today?" But other people feeling cared about will last much, much longer.

Day Seven

WE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER BY REPEATING JESUS

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

To understand what Biblical encouragement is, it's important to know what it is not. It is not an empty pep talk. It is not self-help strategies. It is not worldly advice. It is not popular opinion. It is not cultural norms. The kind of encouragement that God means for us to give each other is the encouragement of God. His truth. His instructions. His promises. His care. While the things we say should have practical application and positive messaging, they should always be grounded in the things that God says. We are to encourage others with our words and actions by repeating the words and actions of Jesus.

Practical...

SHARE APPROPRIATE SCRIPTURE. Whether it's through a text, card, digital image or conversation, pointing others to what God says about them and to them and for them is the ultimate way to encourage them. Remind them who they are in Christ and what they can do through Christ. A quick search in your favorite concordance, Bible promises book, search engine or bookstore will yield many wonderful verses to share that will fit any occasion. In whatever practical way God leads you to encourage others, make it a practice to also include His life-giving words. For His words will transform hearts like nothing else can.

Day Eight

WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING GOOD, SAY SOMETHING GOOD

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another **to love and good works**, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Every Christian should not only lovingly do good things, but should also spur on other Christians to lovingly do good things. This includes encouraging both those who are passive and those who are active in serving God's kingdom. Some people need to be convinced to get going. Some people need to be cheered to keep going. It's easy to get distracted and discouraged when it comes to pursuing eternal priorities, so we need to help each other not lose focus and not lose heart. Instead of assuming others will continue in a life of good works in the Name of Jesus, we should be affirming them as they do.

Practical...

CHEER ON OTHERS AS THEY DO GOOD THINGS. When you see others doing good, acknowledge it. When you see good in others, affirm it. People in your life need to know that you appreciate the way they serve, model, follow and love Jesus. Tell them how God has done good to you through them, or when you witnessed God do good to others through them, or what good you think God can do through them. It is greatly helpful to make it a practice to let no good deed or good quality go unrecognized. Instead, applaud anytime you see Jesus shining in or through someone. He gets credit. They get cheered on.

Day Nine

GOD HAS GIVEN US A POWERFUL WEAPON TO DEFEAT DESPAIR

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting** to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Neglecting to meet together for mutual encouragement and edification is a sin. God commands us to gather. God commands us to encourage. Our regular absence in either of these areas is disobedience. This is serious to God and so it should be serious to us. After all, He has graciously ordained Christian community for the well-being of us all. The world is discouraging with its troubles, pressures, lies, hurts, failures and sins. But by giving us the command to spur on each other in Christ, God has given us a powerful weapon to defeat despair. To encourage is to let Him work through us to build up each other.

Practical...

SHOW UP AND PARTICIPATE. If someone is serving Jesus, support them. If something important is happening, attend it. If somehow your presence is helpful, take part. Showing genuine interest will often include showing up at a lunch, game night, event, crisis, meeting, walk or location. To join in. To help out. To speak up. To advocate for. While you cannot do everything for everyone, you can do something for someone. Your time is extremely precious, which is why it is so encouraging to others when you give it to them. What this communicates is that who they are or what they are doing is likewise precious to you.

Day Ten

TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS, WE REMIND OTHERS

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, **as is the habit of some**, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Regrets from the past. Distractions in the present. Worries over the future. These are a few of the things that enslave those who make a habit of neglecting Christian fellowship. We need to gather to remember. Real gospel-centered encouragement comes when we remind each other Jesus has made amends for the past, makes us fruitful in the present and will make a way in the future until we have been fully delivered from all fears, foes and faults. How are we encouraged in Jesus? We remember together God has always taken care of us, is taking care of us, and will continue to take care of us. We testify that He is faithful.

Practical...

HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE (CELEBRATIONS). All Christians suffer from gospel amnesia at times. They forget what God has done for them and promises to do for them in Christ. What will help others remember? Reminders from you. Remind them that God has always been and will always be faithful to His people. Help them to revisit what He has already done for them, refocus on what He is doing for them and respond in faith to what He will do for them. Christian conversation should end in celebration. Remind others to take heart in this: God will finish the good work He has started in them.

Day Eleven

CONFRONTING SIN AND CELEBRATING GRACE

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more **as you see the Day drawing near**.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

We encourage each other not to draw back when others push back against our countercultural loyalty to God and His ways. Because Jesus has overcome sin, Satan and death, we can have courage; the kind of courage that does not shrink back from saying and doing the right things no matter what people might think of us, what might happen to us, and what it might cost us if we remain faithful to Jesus. Our courage and encouragement are based on this truth: Jesus has overcome all the tribulations, troubles, trials, tests, and temptations of this world! And... He is for us. He is with us. He is coming to get us.

Practical...

HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE (CONFRONTATIONS). Sin wrecks everything in its path. Sometimes we are the cause of it, and sometimes we are affected by it. Left unchecked, sin will continue wrecking. So, one way you can encourage others is to confront sin by speaking the truth in love to them. Encourage them to fight against sin. Encourage them to fight for righteousness. Encourage them to fight in power. Encourage them to fight with joy. Over and over again, let others know they are fighting battles that Jesus has already won. Remind them to turn to Him for strength, deliverance and healing.

Day Twelve

LET US LOOK AND LISTEN FOR DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES

Biblical...

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

– Hebrews 10:24-25

To build up each other in Christ means using the opportunities God gives us to say and do encouraging things. Opportunities often don't last long. So we need to be sensitive to who and when and where and how God wants us to stir up. A well-timed word or deed is incredibly powerful as God works through it in the moment it is needed. He graciously sets things up and sets things in motion by sending us at the right time to the right place so He can do His gracious work in someone else's life. Whether He leads us to schedule a check-in or spontaneously cheer on, we are to look and listen for His divine opportunities.

Practical...

DO A NOT-SO-RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS. There are countless ways to do good to others, especially as you look and listen for divine opportunities to meet their needs. Fix a meal. Help with kids. Mow a lawn. Run an errand. Buy some groceries. Pay a bill. Visit a nursing home. Say something helpful. What makes this "not-so-random" is when you intentionally, regularly do these kinds of things for the people in your life. Not by searching Google for ideas, but by searching the lives of those around you to see what they most need. As you prayerfully consider how to help others, God will help you know what step to take.

Day Thirteen

EVERY ENCOURAGING WORD AND ACT SHOULD POINT TO THIS

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and **all the more as you see the Day drawing near.***

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Our encouragement of one another would be in vain if there was not a guarantee that things will work out for good in the end. If our faith is going to be strengthened and our lives are going to be spurred on to love and good works, there has to be something more than a fingers-crossed assurance. There is. This is the hope of our encouragement: Jesus is coming. To right wrongs. To end sin and suffering. To bring reward. To take us home. To be together. To make us endlessly happy as we glorify Him forever. Every word and act of encouragement should point to this: The day of His return is drawing nearer and nearer.

Practical...

TELL PEOPLE WHAT GOD IS DOING IN YOUR LIFE. Your ongoing testimony of God's activity for you, in you and through you can offer real hope to others. How is God showing His faithfulness to you? Tell people. This isn't at all about pointing out how good your life is; this is all about pointing out how good your God is. There is a difference. Bear witness to specific ways He is providing for you, guiding you, delivering you, enabling you, convicting you, transforming you, delighting you and working through you. It can encourage others to hear that, as we wait for Jesus to return, God is present and active right now.

Day Fourteen

ALWAYS INCLUDE AN INVITATION TO RECEIVE THE BETTER THINGS OF JESUS

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Encouragement has a positive and negative component as we spur on others to do some things and not do other things. We are to issue both support for and warnings against. Don't waste your life on trivial things, but do live for things that count for eternity. Don't give in to temptation, but do enjoy the blessings and benefits of grace. Don't listen to the lies of the enemy, but do believe the words of the Lord. Encouragement isn't neutral. It should repel evil and attract good. Instruction to avoid the world and its ways should always include an invitation to receive the better things of Jesus and His kingdom.

Practical...

SPEND TIME LETTING OTHER PEOPLE TALK. There is a time to speak up and a time to shut up. Listening to other people share what is happening in their lives can be encouraging to them. They may need to share, confess, vent, ask, mourn or celebrate something. So, let them. Over coffee or dinner. On a walk. At a sporting event. During game night. When the kiddos practice. Whenever and wherever the opportunity presents itself (scheduled or spontaneous). After hearing what they have to say, you say what you see God doing for them or what the Bible says He wants for them. Listen first. Speak second.

Day Fifteen

**WE LOVE PEOPLE FAR FROM GOD,
WE LIVE LIKE PEOPLE NEAR TO GOD**

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

You are greatly influenced by the people you invite into your life. You start to act and speak and think and live and become like them. The question is: are you becoming more like Jesus by becoming more like them? It is important that we carefully choose who we allow to get close enough to us to begin to change us. While we should love and serve people who are far from God, we should not take our cues for how to live from them. Instead, we imitate those who are imitating Jesus. As much and as often as possible, meet together with people who exemplify Him and encourage you to become more like Him.

Practical...

FOLLOW-UP ON SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED EARLIER. Some things you do to encourage others are one-and-done, but others should be ongoing. While it's encouraging to step in once, it's really encouraging to walk with someone for the duration. When you don't forget, but rather follow-up on, a previous conversation, prayer request, need or circumstance, it stands out and means a lot because not many people do it. Check in after a few days to see if there is more you can do to support, strengthen and serve others for an existing issue. Encouragement is good; ongoing encouragement is even better.

Day Sixteen

AN HONORED GOD AND HAPPY PEOPLE

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you **see the Day drawing near**.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Encouragement has an end game. Its purpose is not just to make each other feel good about ourselves, our situations or our lives. The primary point of encouragement is to know Jesus and make Him known so that now, at His return, and forever, God is honored in us and we are happy in Him. We may encourage one another to do a good thing, get a better outcome or make the best of a difficult circumstance, but ultimately, we want to help one another experience the fullest and lengthiest joy in God so He gets all the glory. By His gracious help, let us aim for this in our encouragement: an honored God and happy people.

Practical...

DO FOR OTHERS WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO FOR YOU. This isn't just the golden rule; it's also a great rule for encouraging others. Think about the who, what, when, where and how of your own life. Who encourages you, and how do they do it? When and where are you encouraged? What encourages you? While not everyone will find encouragement in the same things, identifying what builds you up and stirs you up can be helpful in getting ideas for doing likewise to other people. Make a list with specific steps others take, or steps you would like them to take, to encourage you. And then take those steps yourself.

Day Seventeen

**BIBLICAL ENCOURAGEMENT
NEVER AFFIRMS SIN**

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Biblical encouragement never affirms sin. In other words, we don't encourage one another to say, do, think, feel or desire things that God has forbidden. While we may mean to make others feel good about themselves or their lives, cheering them on as they turn from Jesus to follow a path that will inevitably lead to brokenness is harmful, not helpful. That's what Satan did to Adam and Eve. That's what Satan has continued to do. That's what Satan wants us to join him in doing. By grace, let us resist His invitation to pass on his "you do you" message and replace it with the vastly superior good news of joy found in Jesus.

Practical...

GIVE A GIFT. It can be hand-made or store-bought, but it doesn't have to be expensive. The value of your gift is not reflected by the price tag, but by the thoughtfulness. Are you tracking with that? It's not about how much you spend; it's about how much you care. A small gift can make a big difference. Trinkets. Books. Flowers. Music. Food. Getaways. Practical Help. Photos. Mugs. Jewelry. There are lots of options. When giving a gift, aim to fit the person and the occasion ... what they like and what they need. Combined with an encouraging reminder from God's Word, these can be very meaningful "treasures."

Day Eighteen

ENCOURAGEMENT IS A KEY PART OF MAKING DISCIPLES

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Encouragement plays a key role in the key responsibility Jesus left for us to complete by His gracious help. We are to make disciples, and we do so largely by encouraging one another. We encourage one other to read the Bible. We encourage one another to pray. We encourage one another to serve God's kingdom. We encourage one another to lovingly obey. We encourage one another to believe and live out the truths of the gospel. We encourage one another to trust Jesus more fully in more areas of our lives. Our faith strengthens and spreads as we stir up each other's affections for knowing, enjoying and glorifying God.

Practical...

SHARE A HELPFUL RESOURCE. There are countless devotions, sermons, podcasts, videos, images, blogs, social media posts, interviews, books and other resources that you can pass on to other people in your life to encourage them. Whether you discover something which you think would help someone else, or you intentionally search for something to pass on to someone else, sharing is caring. As you browse, listen, watch or read for your own edification, you can even build a recommended resource list for future reference. Then, you can mention an entry from it when you see someone who might be helped by it.

Day Nineteen

THE POINT OF ENCOURAGEMENT IS TO POINT TO JESUS

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see **the Day** drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

The point of encouragement is to point to Jesus. Why stir up? Why do loving good works? Why gather? Why encourage? Why persevere? Why anticipate the Day? Jesus. It's His story we tell. It's His mission we join. It's His promises we repeat. It's His grace we extend. It's His name we exalt. It's His joy we experience. It's His glory we seek. We are His ambassadors who speak His words and do His works in His Name so that Jesus gets credit for anything good that we say and do. We build up others in such a way that God is honored in us and we are happy in Him. As we encourage others, we should simultaneously exalt Jesus.

Practical...

POINT TO THE SOURCE. There are two things people around you need to know about encouragement. First, that Jesus is your encouragement. Second, that Jesus is their encouragement. Whatever action you take or word you speak needs to clearly communicate that Jesus is the One who builds us up. Why does that matter? Because believers can't do what Jesus does. Because believers shouldn't get credit for what Jesus does. So, be sure to boast in Jesus as the source of encouragement you receive from others and the source of encouragement you give to others. Our encouragement should always glorify Jesus.

Day Twenty

WE HAVE LESS TIME THAN EVER TO DO THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and **all the more** as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

The need for encouragement escalates the closer we draw to the triumphant return of Jesus. There should be a built-in urgency for us to spur on one another. Why? Because nearness to the second coming of Jesus means we have less and less time remaining now to do things that will matter forever. We have a fixed number of days to do loving good works before we meet Jesus face to face (through our going to Him in death or Him coming to us in life). It's not that we must meet a legalistic quota. It's that we want to magnify Jesus in as many ways for as many days as we have left. So let us stir up all the more.

Practical...

GET STARTED NOW. Don't wait to do what God has called and equipped you to do. If you wait until a more convenient time, thinking you have plenty of time, more often than not, you will run out of time. Your opportunities are numbered. Make. Encouragement. A. Priority. Today is the day to get going. Tomorrow is the day to keep going. Be aware that Satan will try to use distractions to keep you focused on other things. He wants you to think it's a waste of your time to stir up others to love and good works. But nothing good that is ever done in the name of Jesus is ever done in vain. The only waste is not to do.

Day Twenty-One

WHEN WE GET IT RIGHT AND WHEN WE GET IT WRONG

Biblical...

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting** to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

There are times when we will get wrong all of the things we are supposed to do for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. We will forget, not consider. We will criticize, not stir up. We will neglect, not meet together. We will discourage, not encourage. But there is grace for us. There is grace to forgive us when we get it wrong this time and grace to help us get it right next time. And that well of God's grace never runs dry. No matter how much considering, stirring up, meeting together and encouraging is left out in the past or left to do in the future, His grace is sufficient when we ask Him for it in real faith.

Practical...

REPEAT EVERYTHING OVER AND OVER AGAIN. Encouraging one another is not a one-and-done task to be marked off a list; it is to be kept on a list for the rest of your life. Continue to pray. Continue to think. Continue to schedule. Continue to meet. Continue to do. Continue to encourage the people in your life more and more because that's what God calls you to do and that's what others need you to do. What a glorious privilege and responsibility it is to stir up others to better know, follow, serve and love Jesus so that God is honored in them and they are happy in Him. This is a habit worthy of forming and repeating.

Connecting With Me

If you have questions about any of the enclosed material, or if you have any other questions about life with Jesus, please reach out to me by using the *Contact* form at the bottom of the page at *JimmyBrown.com* (making sure you enter your email address correctly). I will personally reply back to you, usually within 24 hours (excluding holidays or weekends).

NOTE: There are a number of free resources available at JimmyBrown.com, and I regularly add more to the site. Check back often for additional materials to access at no cost.

Other Connections

- Social media (personal page): www.Facebook.com/thejimmybrown/
- Daily devotions: www.FinishLineFaith.com or www.Facebook.com/FinishLineFaith/
- Travel / mission vlog (with my wife, Paula): www.TheMissionAmerica.com

*If this resource has been helpful to you, please reach out and let me know.
And please pass this document on to other people who may, by the grace of God, be helped too.*