

Sister Talk Faith: Loving Others

Going Deeper into Encourage

As Long as it is Called "Today"

Reflection Scripture

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10 ESV

Reflection Thoughts

Consider the Reflection Scripture. Read it out loud or write it on a piece of paper.

Reflect on the word "opportunity" in the verse.

opportunity

1: a favorable juncture of circumstances

2: a good chance for advancement or progress

--Merriam-Webster's

Do you look for opportunities to do good to others, as you go about your day? Do you consider it an opportunity when you see a circumstance where you can do good?

Do you see doing good to others as a means of encouragement?

Recall a time you missed an opportunity to encourage or do good. What happened? What made you realize the missed opportunity? How did you feel? Why?

Opportunities to encourage others by doing good are present in every moment of every day. We can't go back and fix the ones we've missed, nor can we move into the future. This moment, this day, is the only opportunity we have to love God and others.

Do you find yourself living in the present? Why or why not? How does it affect your ability to grab hold of daily opportunities to encourage and love others?

What do you hear God saying to you as you reflect on His Word?

Prayer of Praise

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. --Psalm 100:4

Present

:now existing or in progress

:being in view or at hand

:constituting the one actually involved, at hand, or being considered

God's Spirit, present with us, is a source of encouragement. He is always at hand to help and inspire, to spur us on and guide us in encouraging others. We are never alone.

Praise Him for His Presence in your life.

Return to your prayer of praise daily.
Add to it as you feel led.

Encourage: As Long as it is Called "Today"

Day 1:

Read John 7:37-39

Who does Jesus encourage to come to Him?
Why? What does He give to those who believe?

Everyone is thirsty, Believers and unbelievers alike, but we don't always know what we are thirsty for.

When it comes to physical thirst, how often do we need to drink water? How much?

Jesus provides Living Water -- the Holy Spirit -- to those who recognize their soul thirst. The Spirit encourages Believers as we live in a world full of trouble (John 16:33).

How do you drink encouragement from the Living Water? How often?
How do you share the Living Water with others?

Day 2:

Read Hebrews 2:18-3:4

Encouragement builds others up. Who is the builder of all things?

According to these verses, how does Jesus build us up? How are we to view Jesus? Why?

Jesus is the Builder, the One who suffered temptation so we might share in His heavenly calling.

How can our own experiences of suffering temptation be used to encourage or build up those in the household of faith?

How can we glorify the Builder by encouraging others with the testimony of our past failures?

Day 3:

Read Hebrews 3:5-14

Who is Moses in relation to God's house? What was his purpose?

Who is Jesus in regard to God's house?
Who are Believers in relation to God's house?
How do we maintain our place?

What is the Holy Spirit's warning to us? Why do you think He gives this warning?
When are we called to be aware of the temptation? How often does the temptation occur?

The stiff-necked Israelites during the Exodus are our example of what not to do. We are on a

spiritual exodus, moving through a worldly wilderness to wholly inhabit His Kingdom.

Learning lessons from the Israelites, what are ways you can encourage yourself today and everyday? How can we encourage others daily?

Day 4:

Read Jeremiah 2:12-13

What two evils have God's people committed?
How does He call the heavens to respond?

How does God describe Himself?
How does He describe what His people have done?
What do these evils look like in the world today?
How do they play out?
Are you drinking from self-made broken cisterns?
What are they?

Take time to respond to the sins of Believers as He calls the heavens to: *be appalled, be shocked, be utterly desolate*. Mourn. Confess. Repent. Seek His mercy and forgiveness.

Then ask how He wants you to use the Living Water in you to encourage His people to return to Him, the fountain of Living Water.

Day 5:

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today"... - Hebrews 3:13

In Christ, we have access to "rivers of living water" flowing from our hearts, available for the encouragement of ourselves and others.
Drink deep from the water.

First, seek God on how He is calling you to drink from the Living Water to encourage yourself on your faith journey. Something you can do daily, today and the days following in our study.

Second, ask Him how He can flow through you to encourage those in your world. Something specific to do for someone in your family, faith community, or where you work.

Write them down, keep note of what you do for yourself and others. Make a record to refer back to later, to see if you find yourself more or less encouraged at the end of the study.