

Sister Talk Faith: Loving Others

Going Deeper into Encourage

Inspire

Reflection Scripture

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ...”
 Joel 2:28 ESV

Reflection Thoughts

Read the Reflection Scripture out loud or write it out. Circle the verbs above or in what you wrote.

Consider the sequence of the verbs. Who instigates the flow of action?

What do the actions of the sons and daughters, old men and young men have in common?

What do they inspire?

God pours out His Spirit on all flesh to inspire those who will listen.

How has God poured His Spirit into your life? What has He inspired in you?

Are you still pursuing the inspiration? Or has it become dim?

Ask God to pour out afresh His Spirit in your life to renew the inspiration as an encouragement to fulfill the vision He has for your life.

What is He saying to you?

Prayer of Praise

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

Perfect

:being entirely without fault or defect: flawless
 :satisfying all requirements: accurate
 :lacking no essential detail: complete

God is perfect in every way. Yet, He is not a God who demands perfection from His followers causing them to cower in fear or feel worthless. His perfect love casts out fear (1John 4:18) and inspires a love which desires to reach for a life perfectly pleasing to Him.
 Praise Him as Perfect.

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

Encourage: *Inspire*

Day 1:

Read Colossians 3:1-3

As Believers raised with Christ, what are we supposed to be seeking? Why? What are we to set our minds on?

What does this say about our responsibility in seeking inspirational encouragement?

In a way, we are responsible for seeking inspiration to encourage our faith. Making sure we focus on the things of God and not the things of the world.

What spiritual realities are revealed in these three verses? What inspiration do you find by considering the reality of who you are in Christ? How does it encourage your walk of faith? your love of God? your love for others?

Where are you currently looking for inspiration? above? or on the earth?

Day 2:

Read Habakkuk 2:2-3

What did God tell Habakkuk to do with the vision he was given? Why?

How would it affect those who read it? What does God reveal about the timing of the vision?

Visions are meant to inspire the church to thirst for something better and encourage them to run toward making it a reality. God's assurance of a vision coming to pass helps us to persevere. His timing is perfect. His Word cannot lie.

What vision or promise shared in His Word provides you with inspiration and encouragement to persevere toward something better? Explain.

Day 3:

Read Philippians 2:1-8

What encouragements do Believers receive from being united with Jesus? How is this encouragement to be used by Believers?

Encouragement from Christ is meant to inspire us to love and encourage others in the same way He does us.

What does it look like to live a life inspired by Christ's encouragement?

How can this type of encouragement inspire others to thirst for and seek Jesus's love?

Have you been inspired to encourage others because of His love in your life? How?

Day 4:

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

What are we to gain inspiration from on our journey through the worldly wilderness?

How does it make us thirst for something better? encourage perseverance? What does it call us to do get rid of?

Where are we to fix our eyes for ultimate inspiration? What do we have to look forward to?

How can you fix your eyes on Jesus today?

Day 5:

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

Hebrews 3:15

As you go about your week become aware of your interaction with water:

- How you use it.
- When you are thirsty.
- What response you have to thirst.

Are there times you take water for granted? Moments you don't recognize its integral part of life?

From the ice cubes in your drink to the warm suds in the sink, water is everywhere. A constant reminder we are thirsty in this dry and desolate place.

Each time you notice water, be inspired to listen, to look up, and be filled with the truth of who you are and where you are going in Christ Jesus.

Is it possible it takes as much encouragement to continue our spiritual journey as it takes water to live?

Consider the practice you began last week to encourage yourself and someone in your world. How is it going? Does it need to be modified?

Continue in your encouragement of self and others.