

Instill Courage, February 23/24 (Nathan Rychener)

1 Corinthians 8:1 "...love builds up

"...love (affection and goodwill and benevolence) edifies *and* builds up *and* encourages one to grow [to his full stature].

Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

1 Thessalonians 5 "encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

Guide #1: Keep yourself encouraged!

1 Samuel 30:4 "...David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep."
verse 6 "David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters...But David found strength in the Lord his God."

Romans 15:5 "...God who gives endurance and encouragement..."

Guide #2: Be intentional!

Romans 12:6 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage..."

Ephesians 4:29 "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen

Guide #3: Use the Word!

Romans 15:2 "Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

Psalms 119 "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."

Guide #4: Repent & Re-dedicate!

Proverbs 18:21 "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit"

James 3:9-10 "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be"

James 4 "Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up."

Hebrews 3:12 "See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first."