

Encouragement

INTRODUCTION

Webster — “encourage” — to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope.

To spur on: Stimulate: to give help to etc.

I. Most of us need help at some time in life

- A. Elijah on Mt. Carmel. (*1 Kings 18:30-40*).
- B. Elijah in *1 Kings 19:10*

II. Have you ever been like Elijah, discouraged even after a mighty triumph?

A. One of the great problems that Christians must deal with is that of becoming disheartened or dispirited.

III. Discouragement weakens us spiritually.

- A. Discouragement causes us to lose zeal.

IV. Three areas in which we can see the value of encouragement.

PRESENTATION

I. Encouragement gives confidence to the discouraged.

- A. Helps in understanding what Paul understood. (*Philippians 4:13*)
- B. Encouragement gives confidence to those who have become discouraged.

II. Encouragement gives life to those with a dying zeal.

- A. Church at Ephesus (*Revelation 2:5*)
- B. Encouragement is priceless.

III. Encouragement helps to make the weak strong again.

- A. A strong faith can become a weak faith.
- B. A strong faith can also become a stronger faith when encouraged.
- C. Encouragement is valuable because it gives strength, and we can all use some of that.
- D. Let us have the mind of Christ and put to practice what Paul said in *Philippians 4:13*

CONCLUSION

I. Encouragement is needed by all of us and we all like to receive it.

- A. Must be willing to give encouragement.

INVITATION

I. Become as little children. Do it now.