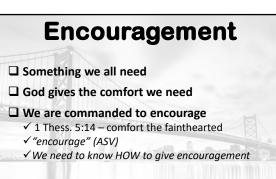




Something we all need

God gives the comfort we need

- ✓ 2 Cor. 7:6
- ✓ "troubled" (NCV); "depressed" (NASB); "discouraged" (NLT)
- ✓ Conclude: the comfort and encouragement I need - God gives!
- Thus, I need to know HOW God does that!
 May be that God is giving me the encouragement and I don't realize it!

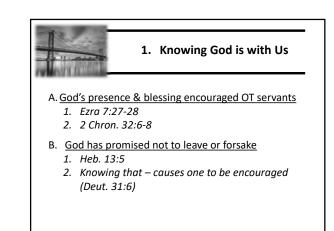


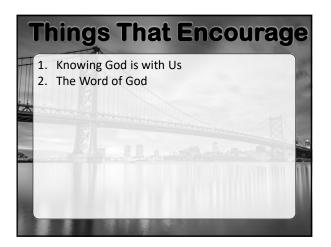
Encouragement

- □ Something we all need
- God gives the comfort we need
- U We are commanded to encourage
- □ Encouragement may involve more than think
 ✓ Far more than a pat on the back "you are doing good"
 - ✓ May include talking about something controversial
 - ✓ May include talking about something negative
 ✓ May include discussion that makes one
 - uncomfortable







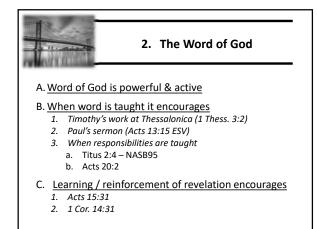


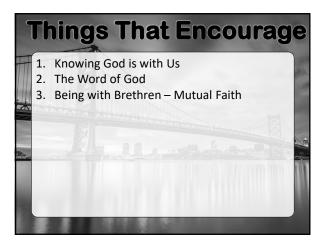


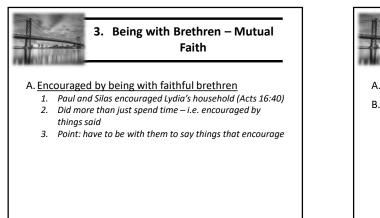
2. The Word of God

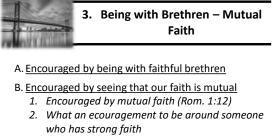
A. Word of God is powerful & active

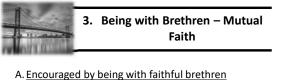
- 1. Alive & working (Heb. 4:12; Isa. 55:11)
- 2. Able to build one up (Acts 20:32)
- 3. Comforts (1 Thess. 4:18)









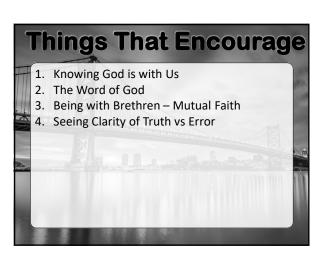


A. Encouraged by being with faithful brethren

B. Encouraged by seeing that our faith is mutual

C. Encouraged when our hearts are knit together

- 1. Mutual love binds our hearts together
- 2. When see and understand that our hearts are encouraged (Col. 2:2).



4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error

A. Encouraged in midst of controversy over circumcision (Acts 15:30-31)

- 1. Issue of circumcision troubling the church (v. 5)
- 2. Had discussion / debate (vv. 7-21)
- 3. Conclusion attributed to Holy Spirit (v. 28)
- 4. Wrote a letter to clarify (vv. 22-29)
- 5. Church at Antioch read it encouraged (vv. 30-31)



4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error

A. Encouraged in midst of controversy over circumcision (Acts 15:30-31)

B. Encouraged by a reminder of truth already believe

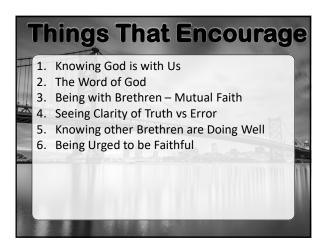
- 1. 1 Peter 5:12 this is true grace in which you stand
 - a. NCV: "I wrote to encourage you"
 - b. Point of book live holy (1:15-16)
- c. What you believe is true thus continue in it 2. *Heb.* 13:22 – *word of exhortation I have written*
- a. NCV: "I have written to encourage you"
 - Point of book twofold: Jesus is the way (1-9); Don't give up (10-13)

Things That Encourage 1. Knowing God is with Us 2. The Word of God 3. Being with Brethren – Mutual Faith 4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error 5. Knowing other Brethren are Doing Well



5. Knowing other Brethren are Doing Well

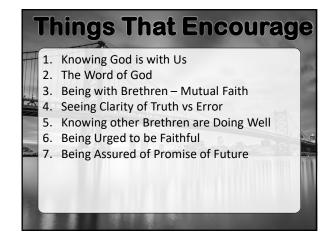
- A. Paul encouraged when hears a good report from <u>Timothy</u> (Phil. 2:19)
- B. Ephesians encouraged when know how Paul is doing (Eph. 6:22 ESV)





6. Being Urged to be Faithful

- A. <u>Barnabas was sent to help with new Christians</u> (Acts 11:22; cf. 4:36).
- B. Talked to them about what they should do (Acts 11:23)
 - 1. "Should" = teaching them what God requires
 - 2. Continue with the Lord (faithful)
 - 3. With purpose of heart (focus & determination)
 - 4. When did this he was encouraging them
- C. <u>Any instruction / reminder of commands or</u> requirement is encouragement



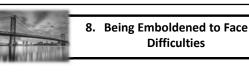


7. Being Assured of Promise of Future

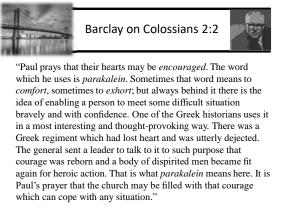
- A. <u>Situation: terrible storm looked like all will perish</u> (Acts 27:20)
- B. <u>Paul told that God revealed that all would be safe</u> (vv. 23-25, 31, 34-35).
- C. When people on ship heard that were encouraged (v. 36)
- D. <u>Any passage / study that points to God's promises /</u> <u>future is encouraging</u>

Things That Encourage

- 1. Knowing God is with Us
- 2. The Word of God
- 3. Being with Brethren Mutual Faith
- 4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error
- 5. Knowing other Brethren are Doing Well
- 6. Being Urged to be Faithful
- 7. Being Assured of Promise of Future
- 8. Being Emboldened to Face Difficulties



- A. Paul wanted brethren to know of conflicts / struggles he had endured (Col. 2:1)
- B. With that knowledge they would be encouraged (Col. 2:2)



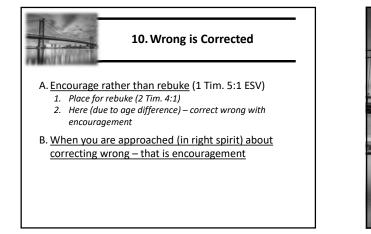
Barclay, William (3rd ed. fully rev. and updated, p. 150)

Things That Encourage1. Knowing God is with Us 2. The Word of God 3. Being with Brethren – Mutual Faith 4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error 5. Knowing other Brethren are Doing Well 6. Being Urged to be Faithful 7. Being Assured of Promise of Future 8. Being Emboldened to Face Difficulties 9. Recommendation by Brethren

9. Recommendation by Brethren

- A. Church at Ephesus encouraged Apollos and
 - recommended him (Acts 18:27)
 - 1. After he had accepted correction and gained understanding
 - 2. ESV: "brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him"
 - 3. ASV: "the brethren encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to receive him"
- B. When brethren show confidence in you encouraging

Knowing God is with Us The Word of God Being with Brethren – Mutual Faith Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error Knowing other Brethren are Doing Well Being Urged to be Faithful Being Assured of Promise of Future Being Emboldened to Face Difficulties Recommendation by Brethren Wrong is Corrected



Things That Encourage

- 1. Knowing God is with Us
- 2. The Word of God
- 3. Being with Brethren Mutual Faith
- 4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error
- 5. Knowing other Brethren are Doing Well
- 6. Being Urged to be Faithful
- 7. Being Assured of Promise of Future
- 8. Being Emboldened to Face Difficulties
- 9. Recommendation by Brethren
- 10. Wrong is Corrected