

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

We live in a time where people enjoy destroying others and leaving them discouraged.

Hebrews 3:12-14

The writer recalls how the children of Israel acted when they were in the wilderness.

He warns his readers not to follow their example.

How do we keep our hearts from becoming hard?

I. TO STAY ENCOURAGED WE NEED TO STAY FOCUSED

Hebrews 3:12

The human heart is deceitful.

It is in our nature to turn away from God. We have a fallen sin nature.

Romans 7:22-25

We need to focus our hearts constantly.

How true it is that our hearts are prone to wander. Prone to leave the God we love.

To stay encouraged we need to keep our hearts looking forward.

The first step is recognizing each one of us has a fallen nature and a sin seeking heart.

We need to stay focused and maintain a positive God directed perspective.

II. TO STAY ENCOURAGED WE NEED TO STAY IN FELLOWSHIP

Hebrews 3:13

Recognize that God established the church and called us into fellowship.

We need each other! --- Beloved, that is God's plan!

When should we encourage? "As long as it is called Today".

We can't encourage yesterday, and you may not have the opportunity to tomorrow.

The time for encouragement is now.

How do you encourage another person? You remind them of 3 things:

a. Remind Them of Their Position – where they came from **Philippians 1:6**

b. Remind Them of Their Potential – where they are going.

A simple word of encouragement pointing out the strengths we see in another's life can change that life forever.

c. Remind Them of Their Partnership – who is with them.

Often encouragement is simply being there for a person.

It is reminding them that they are not alone in the struggle.

III. TO STAY ENCOURAGED WE NEED TO STAY FRESH

Hebrews 3:14

We are in this with Christ for the long haul.

Over time anything can become stale.

Even the new life we have in Christ can become dry routine and empty devotion.

How about your walk with the Lord?

Is it still fresh or has it grown stale over time?

Is your heart open to the Lord?

Encouragement enables the heart to receive nourishment.

Studies show that we need to receive about 7 positive statements to make up for each negative one.

Who encourages you and who do you encourage?

"What is done TO you is of little account when compared to what is done IN you." –Derek Kidner