

DAILY EXHORTING—NEED & BENEFIT

Heb 3:12-14 – *Take care*, brethren, that there NOT be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13 **But encourage one another day after day**, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we *hold fast* the beginning of our assurance firm until the end...

A. We all like to be encouraged, but we are also commanded to give encouragement.

1. The KJV uses the word “*exhort*”, which comes closer to the Greek word.

Vines – *parakaleo*, “to call to a person” (*para*, “to the side,” *kaleo*, “to call”), (a) “to call on, entreat”; see BESEECH; (b) to admonish, exhort, **to urge one to pursue some course of conduct** (always prospective, looking to the future, in contrast to the meaning of “to comfort”, which is retrospective, having to do with trial experienced).]

[This passage is a good example of NT commands: “**Take care...But exhort...Hold fast** to the end. **The** second command really empowers us to keep the other two. **How** serious are we about keeping the Lord’s commands?]

I. REASONS TO GIVE EXHORTATION

A. God commands it (Heb 3:13; Deut 6:24).

1. When was the last time you exhorted someone to be more faithful to God by your choice of words?
2. God isn’t commanding us to simply help someone through a tough day: “*Don’t worry about it too much, tomorrow’s another day.*”
3. NO, He is commanding us to *urge one another to pursue a course of conduct* with which God would be well pleased.
4. Discussing the wonderful teachings of God, & warning those who are wandering away from Him is not just pulpit talk—**God** commands it to be part of our everyday speech.
5. We can all say something that would help someone live more faithfully to the Lord?

A 2nd reason we should encourage & exhort one another.

B. We can develop an evil unbelieving heart: a hardened heart (3:12-13).

1. A heart that is no longer receptive to God's word; a heart departing from the living God.
2. Exhortations are designed to warn a person about the danger he is in.
3. It is a harsh reality that someone who began his or her life in Christ with such zeal & determination to follow Him, can, over time, lose every bit of their faith in God & His word.
 - a. That once happened to an entire nation ([Heb 3:7-11](#), Psa 95).

A 3rd reason we should encourage & exhort one another.

C. Sin is deceitful (3:13)!

1. It promises pleasure, but delivers misery & eternal separation from God.
2. The person who habitually commits sin is deceived!
 - a. He does NOT believe the result of his sins can really be that bad.
 - b. He believes he can enjoy the pleasure of sin without reaping the terrible consequences that follow it.
3. And the longer he is deceived by that lie, the harder his heart becomes, & the less likely he is to allow his life to be directed by God.
4. Knowing this fact is one reason why Christians must "*exhort one another*".

5. We are ALL capable of being deceived if we are not “vigilant” (1 Pet 5:8-9), & if we do not “resist the devil” (Jas 4:7) – but sometimes we need a little help.

[The deceptive nature of sin is the third reason we must exhort one another as often as possible.]

II. THE BENEFIT OF EXHORTATION

A. **There** must be a lot of benefit from the practice of exhortation.

1. The word is used around 34 times in the NT.

Acts 2:40 – And with many other words he [Peter] testified & **exhorted** them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

Acts 11:23 – When he [Barnabus] came [to Antioch] & had seen the grace of God, he was glad, & **encouraged** them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.

Acts 14:22 – [Paul] strengthening the souls of the disciples, **exhorting** them to continue in the faith, & saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

1 Thess 4:1-3 – Finally then, brethren, we urge & **exhort** in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more & more [in love for one another, & holiness – 3:12-13], just as you received from us how you ought to walk & to please God; 2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.

Paul was **urging them to pursue a course of conduct**; he was **exhorting them!**

B. **But** isn't that what preaching is for?

1. Institutionalism: *emphasis on organization (as in religion) at the expense of other factors* (Webster's).
2. Have we created an institution for exhortation within the local church? The pulpit!
3. God commands us to “*exhort one another today – day after day*”.

C. **We** all need to be encouraged.

1. We all get a little discouraged by the challenges we face each day.
2. We all feel spiritually weak at times, & we may be tempted to not resist temptation.
3. We may say, *“What’s the use, nobody’s interested in me. I’m fighting a losing battle; the Devil’s too strong & I’m too weak.”*
4. BUT – If we have someone exhorting us, we are more likely to overcome our moments of weakness & focus our minds on the ALL-MIGHTY GOD who has promised never to leave us nor forsake us (Heb 13:5).

[The benefits of exhortation are enormous & far-reaching in time. **Some** of us are serving the Lord today because of someone’s exhortation many years ago; *the right words at the right time to put us back on the right track.*

May we begin today to take the Lord’s command to *“exhort one another” as serious as other commands.*]

III. THE CONSEQUENCE IF WE FAIL TO EXHORT

A. **Seen in Israel’s failure (3:16-19).**

1. Of the 603, 550 men who left Egypt, only two entered the Promised Land.
 - a. Why did the others fail? Because of their “unbelief”.
2. Why did they, of all people, not believe God, having seen His unequalled power manifested before them time & time again?
3. BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT “EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER”!
 - a. An exhortation from the fathers to their families might have changed the course of history.

B. **There's** the lesson for us!

1. We need to be so busy exhorting one another— & pointing out the blessings of faithfulness to the Lord—that even the weakest among us will not stray.
2. {An exhortation for us, followed by the blessing.}

Phil 4:8-9 – Finally, brethren, whatever things are *true*, whatever things are *noble*, whatever things are *just*, whatever things are *pure*, whatever things are *lovely*, whatever things are of *good report*, if there is any *virtue* & if there is anything *praiseworthy* — *meditate on these things*. 9 The things which you learned & received & heard & saw in me, these do, & **the God of peace will be with you**.

Rev 2:10 – ***Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer...Be faithful until death, & I will give you the crown of life.***

God has shown us how a people who had received His riches blessings to date, suffered & died just a few miles short of their wonderful goal.

Certainly, we do not want that to happen to us, but God commands that we not let that to happen to any of our brothers or sisters in Christ.

Let us be involved in exhorting each other daily! **So** that one day we may together enter God's eternal rest in heaven.

CLOSING