



THE POWER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Sunday, October 23, 2022

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

The great Bible teacher F.B. Meyer (1847-1929) once remarked that if he could live his life over again, he'd spend much more time encouraging others. I'm certain we would all agree, a little bit of encouragement goes a long way! Mention the name "Barnabas" and most people think of encouragement. However, in the passage before us, we see Paul expressing tender words of encouragement to the Thessalonians. Paul's tone moving from the second chapter to the third chapter turns very pastoral. He begins this section with a tender and very personal exhortation. Desiring to embolden their courage, Paul expresses words of affirmation and encouragement. We learn from the Apostle Paul, when you encourage fellow believers, you embolden them to live a courageous Christian life.

Key thought: When you encourage fellow believers, you embolden their courage.

Paul encouraged them to...

1. Pray (verses 1-2)

(Romans 15:30-31, 2 Corinthians 1:11)

- The progress of the gospel and that the Word will be glorified
- The protection from adversaries of the gospel and the Word

2. Trust God (verse 3)

(Proverbs 3:5-7)

- He is trustworthy
- He is capable

3. Remain faithful (verse 4)

(1 Thessalonians 4:1, Galatians 5:22)

4. Pursue spiritual growth/maturity (verse 5)

(1 Thessalonians 3:11; 5:23)