

August 23, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Heb. 3:13 *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. (NIV)*

There is perhaps nothing more powerful than encouragement. The Hebrew word for encourage is **parakaleite** which means *to entreat, exhort, admonish, comfort and lift up*. This is not something that we typically have in our fallen nature. Most people learn early in life, to get what you want, you must push others down and rise to the top. This is a 'dog-eat-dog' world. The writer of Hebrews knows that we, as Christians, are to be different. Listen to the words of Jesus in **Mt. 20:25-28**. *Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for man."* (NIV) And after Jesus paid the ultimate price for everyone, He fulfilled His promise by sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of each believer. He is called the Encourager, parakalete. His purpose is to walk along side of us and encourage us in all of our ways. He is the voice of God that speaks to us and tells us that we are totally loved by God and that He has a purpose for us this very day. Many people struggle to know God's will, but I have found that knowing God's will, only comes by knowing God daily. Listening to His word, walking in His way, and being cognizant or aware of His continual presence. He doesn't come sporadically, and then leave, but He is always with us. He is always speaking to us. He is always telling you that with His help, we can do all things through Christ Who gives us our strength! And in turn, He then wants us to encourage one another. **Heb. 10:24-25** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)*

Dear LORD, please help us to be so filled with You that our nature will be to encourage, and lift up one another. Give us Your Spirit in power so that we can fulfill Your purpose in this discouraging world we live in. **Jesus Name, Amen**