

An Encouraging Word

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Charles H. Spurgeon

“Encourage him.”

- Deuteronomy 1:38

God uses His people to encourage one another. In this passage of Scripture, He did not say to an angel, “Gabriel, My servant Joshua is about to lead My people into Canaan—go, encourage him.” God never works unnecessary miracles; if His purposes can be accomplished by ordinary means, He will not use miraculous ones.

Gabriel was not half as qualified for this work as Moses was. A friend’s sympathy is more precious than an angelic ambassador. Angels know the Master’s bidding better than the people’s testings and trials. An angel had never experienced the hardness of the road, or seen the fiery serpents, or experienced leading the stiff-necked multitude in the wilderness as Moses had done.

We should be glad that God usually encourages us through others. It forms a bond of Christian love. Being mutually dependent on one another fuses us more completely into one family.

Believer, take this text as God’s message to you. Work to help others. Especially strive to encourage them. Cheerfully answer the questions of the young and anxious. Lovingly try to take stumbling blocks out of their way. When you find a spark of grace in someone’s heart, kneel down and blow it into flame.

Allow young believers to discover the roughness of the road by degrees. But tell them about the strength that resides in God, the sureness of the promises, and the charms of communion with Christ. Aim to comfort those in sorrow and to lift up the depressed. Speak appropriate words to those who are weary, and encourage those who are fearful to go on their way with gladness.

God encourages as He points to the heaven He has prepared for you. The Spirit encourages as He works in you the desire to do God’s will and pleasure.

Imitate divine wisdom. Encourage others.

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