

Encouragement – Kimo Hoopai, November 16, 2025

Biblically, encouragement means to "call alongside" someone to give comfort, hope, and strength by reminding them of God's truth and promises. It involves more than simple praise; it can include exhortation, or urging someone to action, and is meant to build up and strengthen the individual to persevere in their faith. We encourage someone everyday just by our actions, prayers, one single word and by loving them.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

Hebrews 10:24-25a NIV ²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,* ²⁵ *not giving up meeting together . . .*

Romans 15:1-2 NIV ¹ *We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.* ² *Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.*

John 16:33 NIV *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Romans 15:5-6 NIV ⁵ *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had,* ⁶ *so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Notes: The Roman church was a diverse community. It was made up of Jews and Gentiles, slaves and free people, rich and poor, strong and weak in faith. So they had difficulty accepting one another. Accepting means taking people into our homes as well as into our hearts, sharing meals and activities, and avoiding racial and economic discrimination. We must go out of our way to avoid favoritism. Consciously spend time greeting those you don't normally talk to, minimize differences, and seek common ground for fellowship. In this way you are accepting others as Christ has accepted you, and God is given glory.

Psalms 90:17 NIV *May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands*

Notes: Because our days are numbered, we want our work to count, to be effective and productive. We desire to see God's eternal plan revealed now and for our work to reflect his permanence. If we feel dissatisfied with this life and all its imperfections, we must remember that the desire to see our work established is placed there by God, but this desire for fulfillment can only be fully satisfied in eternity. Until then, we must apply ourselves to loving and following God and serving others.

Romans 1:11-12 NIV ¹¹ *I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong –* ¹² *that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.*

2 Corinthians 4:16 NIV *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

In Closing: Isaiah 40:28-31 NIV ²⁸ *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.* ²⁹ *He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.* ³⁰ *Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;* ³¹ *but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Amen