

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

07/05/13 - Caring Through Encouragement

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2 Timothy 4:1-8

The word translated "encourage" in 2 Timothy 4 has the idea of someone coming alongside to bring assistance, help, or strength in time of need. Barnabas was given the name which meant "Son of Encouragement" (Acts 4:36). Christ used this word when He told His disciples that He would ask the Father and He would give them another advocate?the Spirit of Truth (John 14:16-17).

An important way help is given is through words of encouragement. A number of years ago several of us family members went to Kansas City to attend my daughter's graduation from seminary. As we sat visiting in our second floor room, we heard the raised voices of the grandchildren. "Come on, you can do it!" "Keep going, you can make it!" We peeked out the door and there was our 16-month-old granddaughter attempting to climb the rather long and steep stairway on her hands and knees. Her three older siblings were at the top shouting words of encouragement. This is the way it is to be in the family of God. We need to come alongside one another, especially in times of need, with caring words of encouragement.

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