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Introduction

Please allow me to begin with a confession: I struggle with encouragement. When someone encourages me, I feel strangely odd, but pleased. When I am the one to encourage someone else, it sometimes makes me uncomfortable.

And yet I realize that encouragement is a must, because in God's Word you and I are told to encourage one another.

This study guide was conceived because I felt others may also struggle with encouragement.

The first part of this guide deals with different relationships. That should not surprise you, for you need to be in some kind of relationship in order to encourage someone. It could be a family relationship, a spiritual relationship, or even just a social relationship.

"What's with the hearts?" ♥ you may say. Encouragement is very much a matter of the heart. All of Scripture is of course very close to your heart. Therefore the hearts represent His Word and His love for us. Something worth noticing!

My hope is that this guide will help you; that it will encourage you to be who you are supposed to be, and to do what you are supposed to be doing!

Above all, let yourself be encouraged by Him!

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Relationships, Relationships...

Your most important relationship is the one you have with your Heavenly Father. In a good relationship you want to learn more about Him, so that you can please Him in all that you say and do. That takes a lifetime! You're never done.

How do you learn more about our Heavenly Father? By staying close to Him. One way to do that is to attend church on a regular basis, for that is where the religious rubber hits the road to Salvation.

You submit to the proclamation of His Word, for it is in His Word that wisdom is found. It is through the sacraments that your faith is strengthened. And it is within the communion of the saints that you can learn, and that you are taught and encouraged.

Then through prayer you humbly submit to Him, Who blesses you each day, and Who knows your thoughts and feelings. And when you ask, He gives according to your needs. Prayer certainly strengthens your relationship with God.

However, there are many other relationships in life, and they all affect how you live as a child of the King. Yes, you are a child of the King, and He even knows you by name! Amazing grace indeed!

- ♥ Romans 15:4-6
- ♥ 2 Thessalonians 2:16 and 17
- ♥ Ephesians 3:17b-21

Questions

1. What does your relationship with God teach you about your relationship with others?
