

GOD'S PLAN FOR HELPING ME BECOME MY BEST

Pastor Rick Reager – August 1, 2021

(David) ⁴ *I look for someone to come and help me, but no one gives me a passing thought! No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me.*” Psalm 142:4

I. THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR NEEDS

1. REGARDLESS OF OUR FEELINGS OR BELIEFS, WE NEED _____

¹⁸ *And the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him.”* Genesis 2:18

2. WITH THE HELP OF OTHERS, WE TYPICALLY _____

⁹ *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work...*” Ecclesiastes 4:9

3. GOD USES OTHERS TO _____ IN TOUGH TIMES

⁹ *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:* ¹⁰ *If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!*” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

4. GOD USES OTHERS TO _____ WHEN WE ARE TEMPTED

¹ *Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.* ² *Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.*” Galatians 6:1-2

5. GOD USES OTHERS TO _____

¹⁷ *As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*” Proverbs 27:17

II. GOD'S PLAN FOR MEETING THESE NEEDS

1. _____ IS GOD'S MECHANISM TO PROVIDE US SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT

²⁵ *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.*” Hebrews 10:25

¹⁴ *For our people should not have unproductive lives. They must learn to do good by helping others who have urgent needs.*” Titus 3:14

2. GETTING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT STARTS WITH _____

Key: If We Learn To Give, We Will _____ !

THE LAW OF _____ !

(PAUL) ¹² *I’m eager to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. In this way, each of us will be a blessing to the other.*” Romans 1:12

³¹ *Do to others as you would like them to do to you.*” Luke 6:31

III. HOW TO GROW AS A SUPPORTIVE & ENCOURAGING MINISTER

1. REALIZE MY _____

¹⁶ *Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to God.* Hebrews 3:16

² *Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.* Galatians 6:2

¹¹ *Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Rejoice. Change your ways. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.* 2 Corinthians 13:11

Key Concepts:

i. For Christ-Followers, Supporting & Encouraging Is _____ . We Are In This

Together (A Family), And _____ Is Called To _____

⁵ *And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests.* 1 Peter 2:5

¹⁶ *He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.* Ephesians 4:16

ii. My Responsibility, In Addition To Our Own Ministry, Is To Help My Fellow Churchmates

²⁴ *Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.* Hebrews 10:24

2. UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF _____

⁵ *The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. ⁶And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that can ruin your whole life. It can turn the entire course of your life into a blazing flame of destruction, for it is set on fire by hell itself.* James 2:5-6

²⁵ *A word of encouragement does wonders!* Proverbs 12:25

²⁴ *Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.* Hebrews 10:24

My Words Have The Power to Cause _____, So Be Sure To Say Only What

_____, **NOT What _____**

²⁹ *Do not let any negative talk come out of your mouth but only what is helpful for building up others according to their needs.* Ephesians 4:29

3. MAINTAIN _____ WITH THOSE WHO I'M RESPONSIBLE TO SUPPORT/ENCOURAGE

²⁵ *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do...* Hebrews 10:25

4. STAY OPEN & BE ALERT TO _____

¹⁰ *For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.* 2 Corinthians 9:10

5. _____ ENCOURAGEMENT OR SUPPORT

²⁷ *Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. ²⁸If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you."* Proverbs 3:27-28

¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do." Ephesians 5:15-17

6. DON'T _____ WHO I WILL SUPPORT/ENCOURAGE

¹⁴ A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty." Job 6:14

¹ My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? ² For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. ³ If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, ⁴ doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?" James 2:1-4

Keys To Loving The Unlovable:

i. In Humility, _____ For Their Faults

² Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." Ephesians 4:2

ii. Remember My _____

³ And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴ How can you think of saying, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye." Matthew 7:3-5

iii. Give Myself A _____

¹⁸ The things that come out of your mouth come from your heart." Matthew 15:18

⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love." 1 John 4:8

7. BE WILLING TO PUT IN THE _____

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically." Romans 12:9-11

i. Encouraging Others Takes _____

²⁴ Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24

ii. Much Like Service, Encouraging Others Typically Requires A _____

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

¹² This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. ¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:12-13

Are You Truly Supporting & Encouraging Your Fellow Arkmates, Helping Them To Because Their Best?

Are You Learning To Control Your Tongue So That You Only Use Those Words That Build Up Others?

What Will You Commit To Doing Differently, Immediately, As A Result Of Being Here Today?