

The Encourager

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Four examples of encouragement . . .

Acts 20:1 — After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

I. Make time to encourage others

Acts 20:2 — When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.

I Thessalonians 5:11 — Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

I Thessalonians 5:14 — And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

Acts 20:3 — There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

II. Follow through with what God gives you to do

Acts 20:4-6 — Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

III. Keep meeting together

Acts 20:7 — On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) — A And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

IV. Stay calm in the storm

Acts 20:8-10 — There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him."

Romans 8:28 — And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Matthew 8:26 — And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Acts 20:11-16 — And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted. But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. And when he met us at Assos, we too him on board and went to Mitylene. And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.
