

## TAKE THE TIME – ENCOURAGE OTHERS

**KING HEZEKIAH**

**2 CHRONICLES 30:22**

**Day 27**

The word “encourage” means “to put heart into” someone. This world is a heartless place, and people are ripping out hearts all day. They rip with negative attitudes, harsh words, rejection, jealousy, power abuse, inferiority attacks, fear-hiding tactics, and many more hurtful interactions.

Very few people know how to encourage because it has seldom been done to them, and because they are not going to take the time to deal with a “people” issue. There is only time for “task” issues. We have things that need to get done; the time is limited; we must keep the people producing & we must keep a professional distance between people.

After a long day at the office, workplace, school, etc., there needs to be a place where people can get their self-esteem recharged. If we do feel good about ourselves, then we cannot function. Can you imagine the person who loves you the most not liking you nor how you do things? That is devastating. The person who loves you the most is YOU; if YOU don't like YOU, where can you turn? Many people all around you DO NOT LIKE themselves; it's a fact. That means that someone else has to be dishing out the “strokes”.

You and I must be ready to give the “pats on the back”, the “I love you's”, “you're doing a great job”, “what would I do without you”, “you are special”, (you get the idea). It might be a verbal affirmation; it might be a letter or note; it might be some type of simple gift; it might be a hug. Maybe the person needs to know that you enjoy his company. Possibly, the person needs to know how they can help you; let them help you (if the shoe fits).

Some people hold on to the few compliments they get. Don't let an opportunity pass without encouraging someone. That person may be at the very end of their endurance. Always be ready.

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

1. How have people encouraged you through the years? How has it helped you in your growth & survival?
2. What kind of an encourager are you? Evaluate how well you do, and what improvements you can make.

**A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

What do you need to say to God as you face the topic being discussed in this devotional? Write out your prayer word for word just as if you were praying. Use separate lined paper to record your prayer. Make sure you actually pray this prayer to the Lord. Be honest & be personal. After all, you mean business with God here. You want this area of your life either fixed, strengthened, added, or removed.