

Edifying One Another (Building Up One Another)

1 Thessalonians 5:11-15

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- ***11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*
- ***12** Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. **13** Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

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- ***14** And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **15** Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.*

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Romans 14:19, 12:5

- *"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."*
- *Romans 12:5 — "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*

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Ephesians 4:16

- *"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." {NLT}.*

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Introduction

- The word **Edify** means **to build up, to strengthen, to encourage, and to help someone grow in Christ.**
- God calls us to encourage, strengthen, and build one another in faith, love, and holiness.

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Point 1: Through the Word of God

- Colossians 3:16 - *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... teaching and admonishing one another."*
- The foundation of all spiritual growth is the **Word of God**. When Scripture fills our hearts, it naturally overflows into our conversations, prayers, and relationships.

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Nehemiah 8:5–12

- Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

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- ⁷ The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

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- ⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.
- ¹⁰ Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”
- ¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”

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This is the time when the people returned from Babylonian exile. They were **physically, mentally** and **spiritually weak**.

Ezra stood on a wooden platform and read the Law. The Levites explained the meaning so the people could understand. The result?

- The people wept in repentance
- They rejoiced in God's mercy
- They renewed their covenant
- Their faith was strengthened

The Word encouraged the broken hearts and empowered them to **rebuilt** a broken nation.

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Point 2: Through Encouragement and Exhortation

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ephesians 4:29
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** — *"Encourage one another and build each other up."*
- Ephesians 4: 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
- Encouragement is not a suggestion—it is a **command**. The early church survived persecution because believers strengthened one another.

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Example: Barnabas

Barnabas is called the “**Son of Encouragement.**”

- He encouraged the new believers in Antioch (Acts 11:22–24).
- He stood beside Paul when others doubted him (Acts 9:26–27).
- He restored John Mark after his failure (Acts 15:36–39).
- Paul later said, “*Mark is useful to me in ministry*” (2 Timothy 4:11).

Barnabas shows that encouragement can **restore broken servants** and **revive ministries**.

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A simple word of encouragement can lift a discouraged soul, restore a weary servant, and strengthen a struggling believer.

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Point 3: Through Love, Fellowship and Service

1 Corinthians 16:14 — *"Let all that you do be done in love."*

- Love is the **heartbeat** of Christian edification. Without love, even spiritual gifts become noise (1 Corinthians 13:1–3).

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Example: Early Church (Acts 2:44–47)

- **They Worshiped, Ate, and Fellowshiped Together Daily**
- **Text:** *Acts 2:46–47* **"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts..."**
- They encouraged one another through **consistent fellowship.**

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- **They Prayed Earnestly for One Another**
- **Text:** *Acts 12:5 "The church was earnestly praying to God for him."*
- They encouraged one another through **intercessory prayer**.
- When Peter was in prison, the church gathered to pray. Their prayers brought comfort, unity, and even a miraculous deliverance.

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- **They Shared Everything and Met Each Other's Needs**
- **Text:** *Acts 2:44–45 "All the believers were together and had everything in common... they gave to anyone as he had need."*
- They encouraged one another through **sacrificial generosity**.
- No one in the early church was left alone in poverty or need. Their giving strengthened the weak and uplifted the discouraged.

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Point 4: Through Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:7

- *"To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

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1 Peter 4:10-11

- ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
- Every believer has a gift. No one is useless. No one is unnecessary but everyone are gifted and useful vessels in the body of Christ for advancing the kingdom of God.

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Ephesians 4:11–12

- Christ gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers **“to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”**
- The church grows when every member uses their gift.
- Your gift—whether teaching, serving, giving, praying, or encouraging—builds the church.

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Conclusion

Dear God’s people, God calls us to be **builders**, not spectators. The church becomes strong, when we:

- **Build each other through the Word**
- **Encourage and exhort one another**
- **Love and serve sacrificially**
- **Use our spiritual gifts faithfully**

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**When God's people edify one another,
the church becomes:**

- **Strong in faith**
- **United in love**
- **Powerful in mission**
- **A light to the nations**
- **Grow in Maturity in Christ**
- Let us continue to uphold mutual affection and edification, so that Christ may be glorified among us and we may grow more and more into His likeness.