

## John Mottie - Encourage the Brethren

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I want to take an opportunity to thank my Heavenly Father, first of all, for being able to be here with all you dear brethren.

And I'll tell you, just like Brother Nynan was commenting, it came under difficult circumstances.

I was going to testify, but I think I'll testify now. Friday morning, my mother passed away, and she'd been in a rest home for about six years and had dementia and was really suffering for about all that time. But Friday, while we were getting ready to come here and pack, she went to the hospital, and it wasn't a short time, and she. She passed on.

And to all of us, it was, of course, really. It sounds funny, but it was a joyous time because she'd suffered so much. But my family don't understand that. Neither does the world, so. So I ask an interest in your prayers.

Along them lines, you know, I'm going to read First Corinthians 14, verses 3 and 4, and this is from the Amplified version.

But on the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to the people for edification to promote their spiritual growth, and speaks words of encouragement to uphold and advise them concerning the matters of God, and speaks words of consolation to compassionately comfort them. These are the three assignments we have. Mine is speaking words of encouragement.

And the definition of encouragement is the action of giving someone support, confidence, or hope, and, you know, athletes in the sports world receive this from their coaches. They receive inspiration. They receive encouragement with such things as hanging there.

Don't give up, keep pushing, keep fighting, stay strong, never give up, never say die. Come on, you can do it. These are given to athletes to encourage them to be the best they can be the very best. Some of them make it. Some of them are incredible athletes.

And a lot of it is due to this encouragement that they receive from the hands of their teachers and their advisors and their coaches.

And they go on to do great things. So how do we as Christians receive this from our brothers and sisters in our walk? Or we might say also, how do we give this to our brethren? To me, one of the best ways to do this is the cards and letters that we receive from brothers and sisters from different ecclesiastics. Some are just a few lines that we write on cards like they're doing here at the convention, filling out the letters and the cards of encouragement to brethren that have lost loved ones that are going through severe trials.

There's nothing better. It's so encouraging to receive them, and I'm speaking from experience because I've received them and they're wonderful blessings So I do encourage this, and it's going on back there in the back of the hall right now, and as I say, it has helped me and I know it helps others.

In the Scriptures, we have similar words like the ones I quoted. Paul says in First Timothy, Chapter 6, Verse 12, and I'm paraphrasing, fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of eternal life. Take hold. That's almost a command, isn't it?

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Isn't that beautiful? It's so encouraging to hear our brother Paul encourage us.

In fact, in just about all the letters that Paul wrote, he offered words of encouragement to his brethren always. An example is in First Timothy, Chapter 1, Verse 1. Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith, grace, mercy, peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. Second Timothy, chapter one, verse one. Same exact, almost exact phrase is repeated.

And then Second Timothy, chapter two, verse one. Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Verse 3. Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Christ be amplified here says, constantly strengthening and empowered.

So how can we encourage and be encouraged at the same time? The time now that we live in, we may at times think that what we're going through, no one else has experienced.

It's too much to bear. But it's not. In First Corinthians, chapter 10, verse 13, it says, There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man. But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what you are able, but will with the temptation, also make a way to escape that you may be able to bear it. 2015.

My house burnt. I lost everything, and you. You worry and you think I've lost everything I had, but I didn't. What did I lose?

Things. No one lost their life, and so we all go through all of us, the same trials and tribulations.

Hebrews, chapter 12, verse 1, again amplified.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness, stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us, looking onto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despised the shame, and is set down at the right hand of God, right hand of the throne of God.

I know that all of us are familiar and look at the examples that are given to us in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and probably have some you're personally acquainted with relate to, or maybe all of them. Or some we know that aren't mentioned there in the ancient worthies because there were so many.

One truly, that I can relate to, excuse me, is Moses. Brother Michael talked about this and how. In Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 24 and 25, it says, by faith, Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a while. Here in verse 26, it says, he considered the reproach of the Christ. That is the rebuke he would suffer for his faithful obedience to God.

To be greater wealth than all the treasures of Egypt. For he looked ahead to the reward promised by God. This was not always the case with Moses. Let us read Exodus, chapter 3, verses 10 and 11. Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh.

And that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt, and Moses said to God, who am I? That I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel

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out of Egypt. Well, there's one thing wrong here. Moses used too many eyes.

This is John, chapter 15, verse 5. I am the vine, you are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him the same bringeth forth much fruit. For without me, you can do nothing. Without me, you can do nothing.

Yes, where would we be brethren if we didn't have the Lord? Moses did not trust himself or his ability, and this may be the case with many of us. I know I doubt my ability sometimes, but Moses certainly had the encouragement that he needed. In Exodus, chapter three, verse 12, it says, Certainly I will be with thee.

And this word of encouragement of this type always helps. It helps all of us, but especially coming from the Lord.

We must also always remember that whatever talent or abilities that we possess, that we have, it's not ours. It comes from the Lord.

There's one more servant of God that to me is an encouragement, and that's Joshua, and we find the account in Joshua, chapter one, verses one to six. This is the niv. After the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua, the son of Nun, Moses, aid Moses. My servant is dead.

Now then, you and all these people get ready to cross the Jordan river into a land I am about to give to them, to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. As I promised Moses. Your territory will extend to the desert of Lebanon and from the great river Euphrates and all the Hittite country to the great sea to the west. No one will be able stand up against you all the days of your life.

As I was with Moses, I will be with you. I will never leave you or forsake you. Is that encouraging? It encourages me. I know it does all of you, because we have this same promise to us.

He'll never leave us. He'll never forsake us.

Joshua knew how God had dealt with Moses. He's seen it personally. He had a firsthand account as he watched the dealings between Moses, God, and how he strengthened him and guided him, encouraged him almost on a daily basis.

Well, we also can be encouraged, as I said, as we see how our Lord deals with other brethren, maybe in our ecclesia, maybe in other ecclesiast, maybe in other countries, and it's a blessing to us. Yes, Joshua witnessed the wonderful way God was with Moses.

In John, chapter 16, verse 33, we have encouraging words from our Lord, and it reads these things have I spoken unto you, that in me you have peace, the world you have tribulation. But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

In this case, we have the Lord himself giving all of us words of encouragement to stay the course, finish our covenant, never give up.

We have those same praises from the Lord. Revelations, chapter 3, verse 21. We all know this scripture. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me on my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with my father in his throne. So just like Joshua was inspired by the example of

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Moses, we can look to the Lord for a wonderful example.

I want to convey a short story, if I may, to all of you on how my father, Robert Mottie, received the truth, and I'm always asking different ones how they get the truth. His father, my grandfather, of course, was a paper hanger during the depression. He was doing a job for someone when the depression hit their lives and they could not pay him.

So they asked him.

His name was Leslie. They asked him if he would take these six books for partial payment. Reluctantly, he didn't have a choice. Reluctantly, he took these six books. Well, brethren, we all know what those six books are, don't we?

We study them all the time. They're the volumes.

He read them. He studied them with my father and he believed it.

But he never consecrated. He never did consecrate my father. Did I have many in her family, but grandfather never did. The reason, he said, was because he didn't feel worthy.

Well, people tried to tell him and others that someday you'll have to be worthy, and why not now? They tried to impress this on him. What's the point of this story?

Brethren, all of us here, most all of us, have come to a point where we have to make this decision.

And that takes courage, and that's a word that's in Encourage. It takes courage. It takes courage to do what we have done. We receive that strength from the Heavenly Father and no one else.

And our brethren, where else do we receive strength and encouragement?

Well, brethren, look around this room. Look at one another. Do any of these brethren here encourage you in any way, shape or form? They do. Me, I am encouraged by every smiling face I see.

Every one of them. I need them. We need them like food, like water. We need one another.

I also think.

I think about the brethren that were in these seats that aren't here. They have been here. They have finished their course.

Maybe they're here spiritually, but they're in a greater, wonderful place, aren't they? A wonderful place. That's where we want to be.

Remember the definition of encouragement that we gave earlier?

The action of giving someone support, confidence or hope. The action of giving someone support, confidence or hope. Brethren, we can all do this for each other. We can. We can do all of those things.

Hope, confidence.

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In closing, I like to read that scripture because that is also a wonderful blessing. Keep him perfect peace, whose mind is set on the Lord because he trusts in you.

Trust the Lord. God is what an everlasting rock.

Pretty encouraging, isn't it? I know it is. To all of us.