


“Comfort the fainthearted”

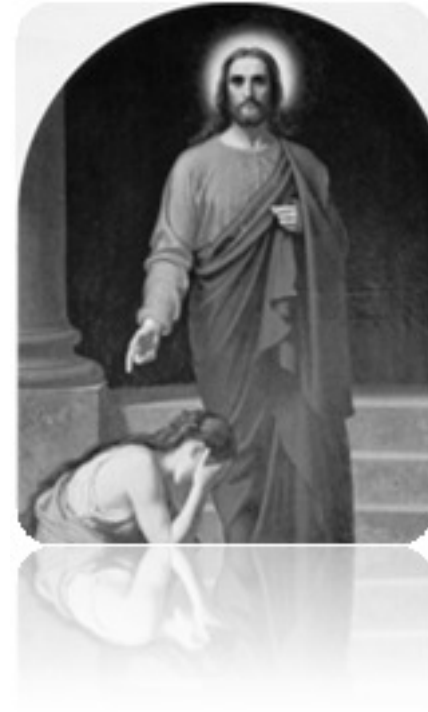
1 Thessalonians 5:14



*“So encourage each other and
build each other up, just as
you are already doing.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

**Lessons from the
Lord on how we
ought to
encourage and
lift up others**



1. Making others feel that they are needed ⁽¹⁾

- “Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land” *Luke 5:3*
- “And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you loosing it?’ thus you shall say to him, ‘Because the Lord has need of it.’”

Luke 19:31



1. Making others feel that they are needed ⁽²⁾

- With the Samaritan woman: “Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’” *John 4:7*
- When feeding the multitude: “and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude”
Luke 9:16



2. Expressing Patience with the faults of those working with Him

- Correcting Abraham's fault when he lied to Abimelech about Sarah: "Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live" *Genesis 20:7*
- The example of Jonah
- The example of Thomas



3. Acknowledging those who are lowly in heart

- With Zacchaeus: “And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him”

Luke 19:5

- Defending the woman who was a sinner in the city: “Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much” *Luke 7:47*



4. Choosing those who are not regarded by others ⁽¹⁾

- “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are” *1 Corinthians 1:27-28*



4. Choosing those who are not regarded by others ⁽²⁾

- Choosing Peter the fisherman
- Matthew the tax collector
- Mary Magdalene out of whom He cast seven demons



5. Defending the sinners

- “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick”

Matthew 9:12

- With the woman caught in adultery:

“He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”

John 8:7



6. Giving Hope to those who fell in sin ⁽¹⁾

- “Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them”

Genesis 3:21

- With Cain: “So the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted?’” *Genesis 4:6-7*



6. Giving Hope to those who fell in sin ⁽²⁾

- Restoring St. Peter to his apostleship



7. Crediting equally those who work their best

- Giving the same reward to the one who gained two talents
- Giving the same wage to those who worked the last hour
- Calling the land that brought thirtyfold good, as the one that gave a hundredfold



**Lessons from
God on what
we ought NOT
do while
lifting up
others**



1. Allowing disrespect toward that which should be honored and revered

- “Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves” *Matthew 21:12*



2. Agreeing with others on what we don't believe

- “But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’” *Matthew 16:23*



3. Avoiding correction of others within our role and responsibility

- “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in” *Matthew 23:13*



4. Compromising the truth to make it suit everyone

- “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” *John 6:66-67*
- “Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” *Matthew 7:14*



5. Speaking relative terms to avoid “offending” others

- “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” John 14:6
- “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” *John 3:36*

