

Life in this system of things is hard. Our fellow believers are under a lot of pressure. We can be a real blessing to them if we look for ways to encourage them. In this regard, it is helpful to consider the example of the apostle Paul.

(1 Thessalonians 5:11) Therefore, keep encouraging one another and building one another up, just as you are in fact doing.

Paragraph 1

(1 Thessalonians 5:11) Therefore, keep encouraging one another and building one another up, just as you are in fact doing.

Paragraph 2

(1 Corinthians 11:1) Become imitators of me, just as I am of Christ.

Paragraph 3

(Acts 20:34) You yourselves know that these hands have provided for my own needs and the needs of those with me.

(Acts 18:2-5) And he found a Jew named Aq'ui-la, a native of Pon'tus who had recently come from Italy with Pris-cil'la his wife, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. So he went to them, 3 and because he had the same trade, he stayed at their home and worked with them, for they were tentmakers by trade. 4 He would give a talk in the synagogue every sabbath and would persuade Jews and Greeks. 5 When, now, both Silas and Timothy came down from Mac'e-do'ni-a, Paul began to be intensely occupied with the word, witnessing to the Jews to prove that Jesus is the Christ.

(Philippians 1:10) that you may make sure of the more important things, so that you may be flawless and not stumbling others up to the day of Christ;

Paragraph 4

(Acts 17:6, 7) When they did not find them, they dragged Ja'son and some of the brothers to the city rulers, crying out: "These men who have overturned the inhabited earth are present here also, 7 and Ja'son has received them as his guests. All these men act in opposition to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king, Jesus."

(1 Thessalonians 3:2, 3) and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's minister in the good news about the Christ, to make you firm and comfort you regarding your faith, 3 so that no one might be shaken by these tribulations. For you yourselves know that we cannot avoid suffering such things.

(Acts 14:8) Now in Lys'tra there was a man sitting down whose feet were crippled. He was lame from birth and had never walked.

(Acts 14:19-22) But Jews arrived from Antioch and I-co'ni-um and persuaded the crowds, and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, imagining that he was dead. 20 However, when the disciples surrounded him, he got up and entered the city. On the next day he left with Bar'na-bas for Der'be. 21 After declaring the good news to that city and making quite a few disciples, they returned to Lys'tra, I-co'ni-um, and Antioch. 22 There they strengthened the disciples, encouraging them to remain in the faith and saying: "We must enter into the Kingdom of God through many tribulations."

(Hebrews 12:2) as we look intently at the Chief Agent and Perfecter of our faith, Jesus. For the joy that was set before him he endured a torture stake, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Paragraph 5

(Acts 14:21-23) After declaring the good news to that city and making quite a few disciples, they returned to Lys'tra, I-co'ni-um, and Antioch. 22 There they strengthened the disciples, encouraging them to remain in the faith and saying: "We must enter into the Kingdom of God through many tribulations." 23 Moreover, they appointed elders for them in each congregation, offering prayer with fasting, and they entrusted them to Jehovah, in whom they had become believers.

(Psalm 27:10) Even if my own father and mother abandon me, Jehovah himself will take me in.

(Proverbs 12:25) Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, But a good word cheers it up.

Paragraph 6

(Hebrews 12:1) So, then, because we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also throw off every weight and the sin that easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Hebrews 12:22) But you have approached a Mount Zion and a city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, and myriads of angels

(Hebrews 11:32-35) And what more will I say? For time will fail me if I go on to relate about Gid'e-on, Ba'rak, Samson, Jeph'thah, David, as well as Samuel and the other prophets. 33 Through faith they defeated kingdoms, brought about righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the force of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from a weak state were made powerful, became mighty in war, routed invading armies. 35 Women received their dead by resurrection, but other men were tortured because they would not accept release by some

ransom, in order that they might attain a better resurrection.

Paragraph 7

(Mark 7:19) since it enters, not into his heart, but into his stomach, and it passes out into the sewer?" Thus he declared all foods clean.

(Romans 14:19-21) So, then, let us pursue the things making for peace and the things that build one another up. 20 Stop tearing down the work of God just for the sake of food. True, all things are clean, but it is detrimental for a man to eat when it will cause stumbling. 21 It is best not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything over which your brother stumbles.

(1 Corinthians 9:19-22) For though I am free from all people, I have made myself the slave to all, so that I may gain as many people as possible. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew in order to gain Jews; to those under law I became as under law, though I myself am not under law, in order to gain those under law. 21 To those without law I became as without law, although I am not without law toward God but under law toward Christ, in order to gain those without law. 22 To the weak I became weak, in order to gain the weak. I have become all things to people of all sorts, so that I might by all possible means save some.

Paragraph 8

(Galatians 6:12) All those who want to make a good impression in the flesh are the ones who try to compel you to get circumcised, doing so only to avoid being persecuted for the torture stake of the Christ.

(Acts 15:1, 2) Now some men came down from Ju-de'a and began to teach the brothers: "Unless you get circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 But after quite a

bit of dissension and disputing by Paul and Bar'na·bas with them, it was arranged for Paul, Bar'na·bas, and some of the others to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem regarding this issue.

(Acts 15:30, 31) So when these men were dismissed, they went down to Antioch, and they gathered the whole group together and handed them the letter. 31 After reading it, they rejoiced over the encouragement.

Paragraph 11

(Acts 15:37-39) Bar'na·bas was determined to take along John, who was called Mark. 38 Paul, however, was not in favor of taking him along with them, seeing that he had departed from them in Pam·phyl'i·a and had not gone with them to the work. 39 At this there was a sharp burst of anger, so that they separated from each other; and Bar'na·bas took Mark along and sailed away to Cy'prus.

(1 Corinthians 9:6) Or is it only Bar'na·bas and I who do not have the right to refrain from working for a living?

(Colossians 4:10) Ar·is·tar'chus, my fellow captive, sends you his greetings, and so does Mark, the cousin of Bar'na·bas (concerning whom you received instructions to welcome him if he comes to you),

(Ephesians 4:3) earnestly endeavoring to maintain the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace.

Paragraph 13

(Hebrews 1:5, 6) For example, to which one of the angels did God ever say: "You are my son; today I have become your father"? And again: "I will become his father, and he will become my son"? 6 But when he again brings his Firstborn

into the inhabited earth, he says: "And let all of God's angels do obeisance to him."

(Hebrews 2:2, 3) For if the word spoken through angels proved to be sure, and every transgression and disobedient act received a punishment in harmony with justice, 3 how will we escape if we have neglected so great a salvation? For it began to be spoken through our Lord and was verified for us by those who heard him,

(Hebrews 9:24, 25) For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, so that he now appears before God on our behalf. 25 This was not done to offer himself often, as when the high priest enters into the holy place from year to year with blood that is not his own.

Paragraph 14

(Hebrews 10:24) And let us consider one another so as to incite to love and fine works,

(Acts 11:27-30) In those days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them named Ag'a·bus stood up and foretold through the spirit that a great famine was about to come on the entire inhabited earth, which, in fact, did take place in the time of Claudius. 29 So the disciples determined, each according to what he could afford, to send relief to the brothers living in Ju·de'a; 30 and this they did, sending it to the elders by the hand of Bar'na·bas and Saul.

(Galatians 2:10) They asked only that we keep the poor in mind, and this I have also earnestly endeavored to do.

Paragraph 15

(Hebrews 6:9) But in your case, beloved ones, we are convinced of better things, things related to salvation, even though we are speaking in this way.

(Hebrews 10:39) Now we are not the sort who shrink back to destruction, but the sort who have faith for the preserving of our lives.

(Hebrews 2:1) That is why it is necessary for us to pay more than the usual attention to the things we have heard, so that we never drift away.

(Hebrews 2:3) how will we escape if we have neglected so great a salvation? For it began to be spoken through our Lord and was verified for us by those who heard him,

Paragraph 16

(Hebrews 10:32-34) However, keep remembering the former days in which, after you were enlightened, you endured a great struggle along with sufferings. 33 At times you were publicly exposed both to reproaches and to tribulations, and at times you shared with those who were having such an experience. 34 For you expressed sympathy for those in prison and you accepted joyfully the plundering of your belongings, knowing that you yourselves have a better and an enduring possession.

(Hebrews 6:10) For God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name by ministering and continuing to minister to the holy ones.

(Hebrews 13:5, 6) Let your way of life be free of the love of money, while you are content with the present things. For he has said: “I will never leave you, and I will never abandon you.” 6 So that we may be of good courage and say: “Jehovah is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

Paragraph 18

(1 Thessalonians 5:11) Therefore, keep encouraging one another and building one another up, just as you are in fact doing.