

Theme: -I pray for you  
-I see your good works  
-He has rescued you

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July 11, 2010

Word to Encourage

Colossians 1:1-14

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We have life coaches all around us, some are named as coaches, some are coaches because of position they hold in society and still others are not aware they are coaches. Just as there are different types of life coaches there are also different patterns of coaching. There is the yelling coach who shouts at you for not doing that which has been taught or shout at you for continuing that bad habit they have worked long and hard trying to break you of. There are the silent coaches who sit by the sidelines of life and watching what you are doing yet never speak a word of encouragement nor a word of discouragement. And there are coaches like police officers who cause us to do things properly merely by their presence. There are probably as many ways to coach as there are people in the world.

Many coaches are older but age is not necessarily a prerequisite to being a coach. Most would say their coaches are wiser than we are, yet even coaches fail and are not perfect. So who are the coaches in your life and who do you coach? What types of coaches are most productive with you and how can you be most productive in your coaching?

In a recent movie The Blindside Sandra Bullock walks up to the player who the coach has been yelling at, who happens to be the boy she is allowing to live in her home, knowing he scores high on nurturing, she tells the young man this: "the quarterback and running back are your family out here and you need to protect them from the other team, do you understand?" Suddenly the player begins to block with the fervor the coach had hoped for. Different ways of coaching work for different people, yelling didn't work for this young man while calling him to his core value of nurturing caused him to be encouraged to act worthy of a football player.

Some respond to the loud verbal commands while others shut down when receiving harsh tongue lashing. Some are encouraged by a hug or a smile while others see these acts of kindness are not encouraging at all. The Apostle Paul in writing to the church in Colossae wanted to encourage them in their walk with God so he tells them these three things: I pray for you, I see you bearing good fruit for God and most importantly God has rescued you.

I would like to encourage you this morning by telling you that God has rescued you, I have seen your good works and I too pray for you on a regular basis. So how encouraging is that? Are you ready to leave here and conquer the world for the Lord Jesus Christ? I doubt it very much. We need the assurance we are God's person. Verse 12 tells us God has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. We are redeemed, we are saved, we are born again, we are the children of God whatever phrase makes sense to you we are God people on account of the grace of God and the action of Jesus Christ.

I would hope that would be enough encouragement to walk with God. Paul knew we at times need the encouragement of people so he commends their acts of kindness and tells them he prays for them. Affirm each other when you see one doing works that glorify God, pray for

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each other in the big things and in the little things of life, do your best to be a great coach for one another and most importantly walk with God at all times.