

Scripture Reading (Joshua 1:3-9)

³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is with you wherever you go.*”

Discouraging Times (2020)

- Limited social interaction
- No school, college, working from home
- Harder to be encouraged when we don't see each other
- How do we know if someone is discouraged
- Harder to find ways to help from a distance
- Strain on family (holidays alone)
- COVID (sickness, masks, fear, finance)

What can we do?



¹ Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Definition of *encourage*

transitive verb

1a: to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope : HEARTEN she was *encouraged* to continue by her early success

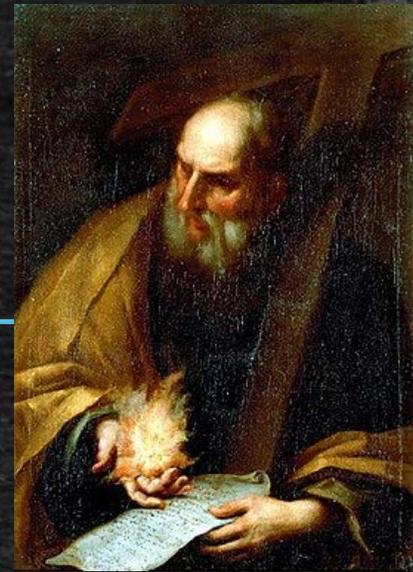
b: to attempt to persuade : URGE they *encouraged* him to go back to school

2: to spur on : STIMULATE warm weather *encourages* plant growth

3: to give help or patronage to : FOSTER government grants designed to *encourage* conservation

Think about it ...

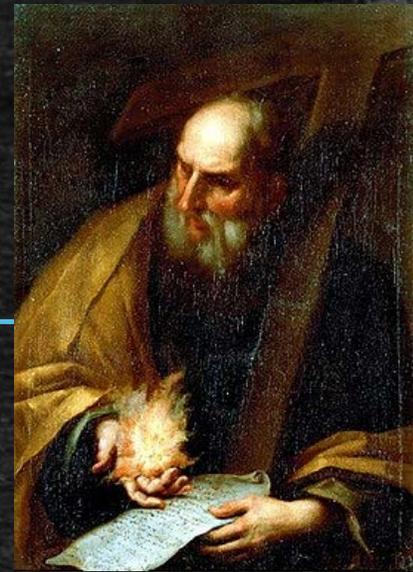
- Who has been the most encouraging person in your life?
- Today we consider how Barnabas was an encourager in the early church
 - We are called also to encourage people in their relationships with Christ and with one another.
- Discuss how can we encourage others?



Listen for Barnabas' new job.

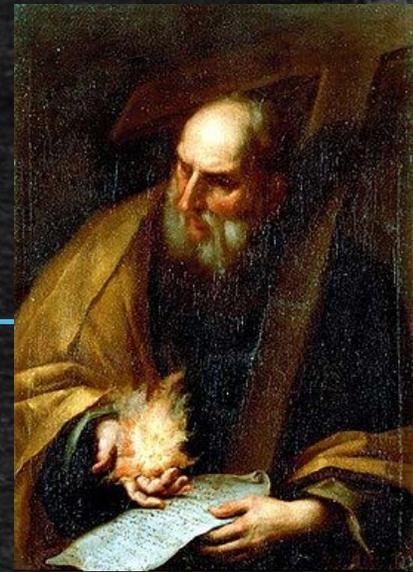
Acts 11:22-24 (NKJV) 22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with **purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.** 24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

What can we do today to be like Barnabas to encourage others to be convicted in their heart to stay faithful?



Encourage Others to Grow in Christ

- Who heard about the successful preaching of the gospel and what was their response?
- What words or phrases in these verses lend support that Barnabas was the right person to send to Antioch?
- How did Barnabas encourage the Christians at Antioch?

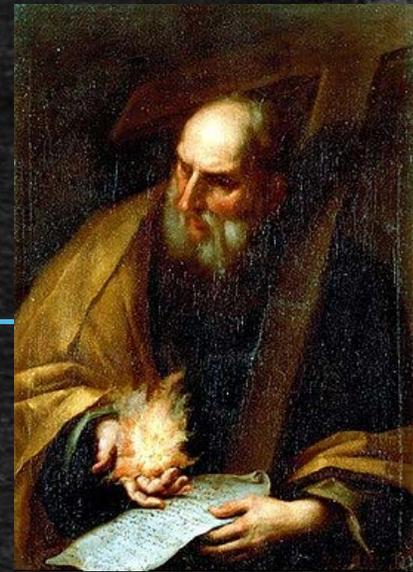


Prov. 11:27

One who diligently seeks good seeks favor, But one who seeks evil, evil will come to him.

Encourage Others to Grow in Christ

- Why is someone like Barnabas a real asset to a church?
- How do we intentionally grow into the role of an encourager?



Listen for a new nickname.

Acts 11:25-26 25 And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers of people; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Encourage Others to Serve Christ

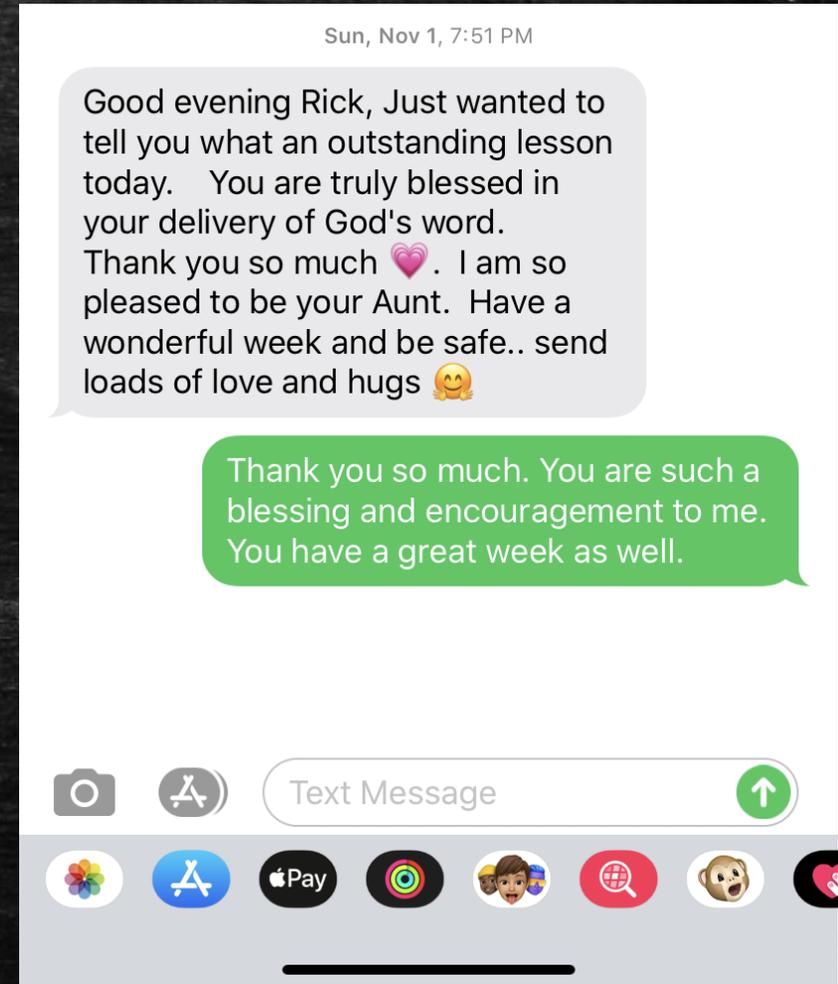
- After assessing the situation in Antioch, what did Barnabas do?
- Why do you think Barnabas went for *Saul* (it had been about 10 years since their acquaintance in Jerusalem)?
- What was the primary scope of their ministry together in Antioch?

Application

- A note of thanks.
 - Identify one person who has encouraged you.
 - Write a note to him or her and express your gratitude for the help and encouragement.
- We need to let the ones we love know how much we appreciate them.

Application

- A word of encouragement.
 - Take time this week to encourage someone in their walk with Christ.
 - Make a call, write a note, or come alongside the person you know who needs a word of support.



Application

- A relationship of encouragement.
 - Develop an ongoing relationship with someone that includes regular meetings.
 - Mentor the person in a particular area of life and encourage his or her growth in Christ

Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see greatness within you, even when you don't see it yourself.

Encouragement

What can we do?

- We have ability to connect in more ways than ever (phone, text, email, Facebook, Twitter, Portal)
- Be an encourager to our young people to do their best in school and strengthen their faith to God
- Commit the time to know how folks are doing (workgroups)
- Make food, pickup groceries, just call and talk to them and let them know you are thinking of them
- Find ways to stay in touch, participate in remote services
- COVID – don't let it get us down

Recent Facebook Postings

 **Mark Cravens**
7h · Bible ·  

My friends. On a weekend focused on being thankful, I'm thankful for you and pray this blessing to you!



BIBLE.COM
Numbers 6:24-26 "The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to..."

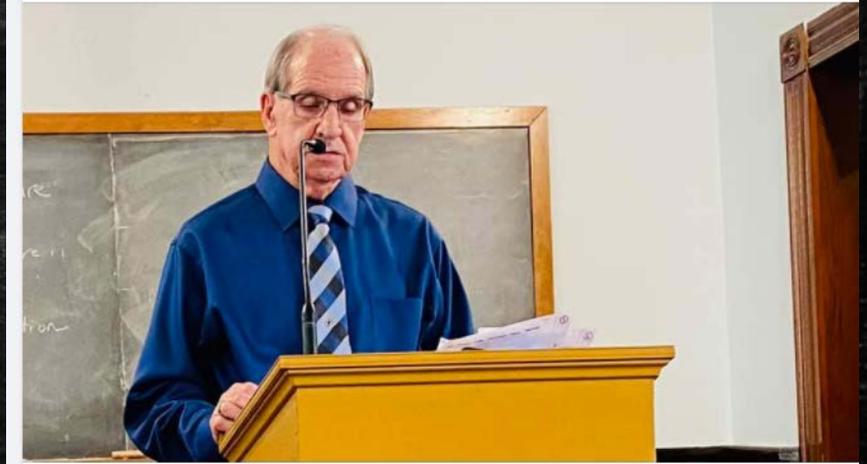
 **Cindy Anderson Messenger**
November 26 at 8:24 AM · 

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Let us with all our hearts united say, "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want!" With confidence in the future and with thanksgiving for the hope that is tomorrow. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving 🙏



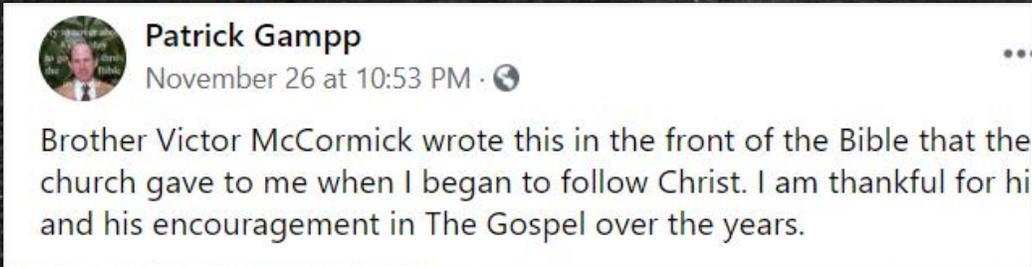
 **Casey Tolzda is with Gary Keevert.**
November 22 at 10:28 AM · 

Gary said it took him 80 years to give a talk at church, you did a great job! Thank you!



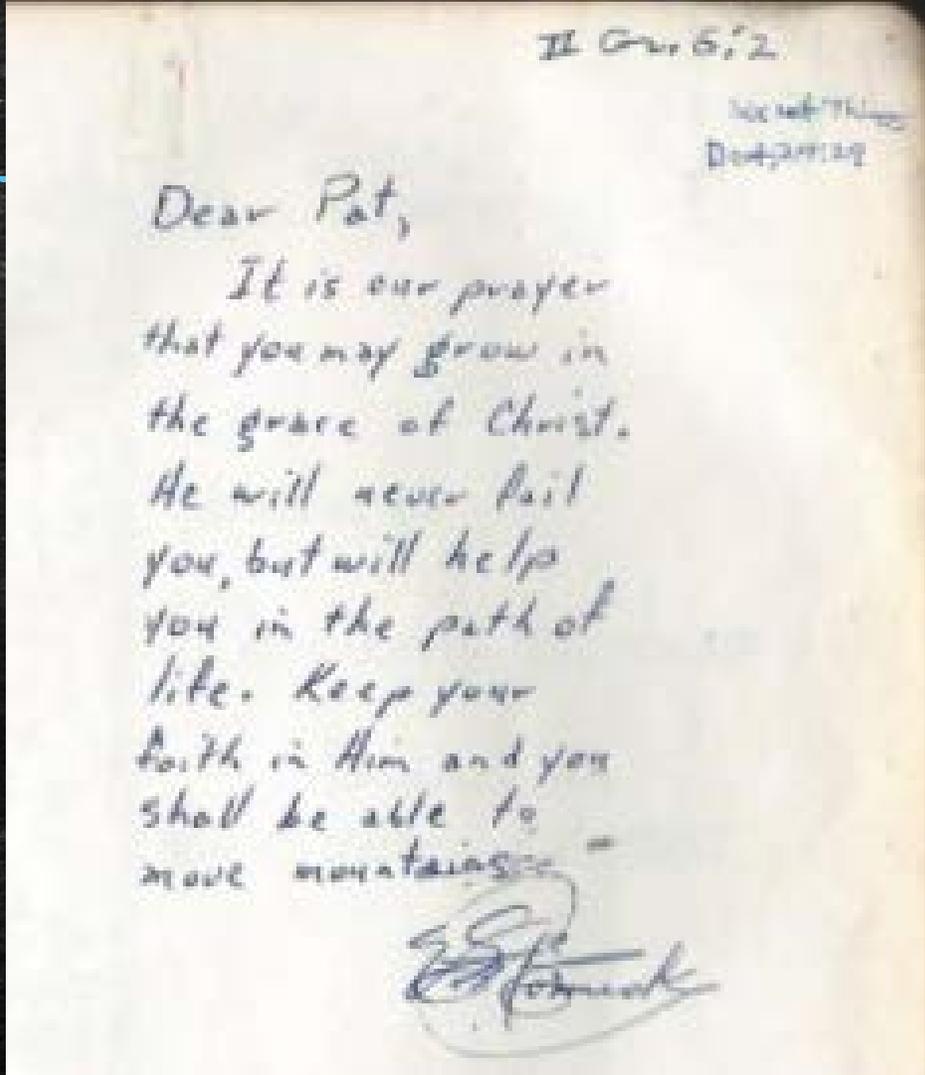
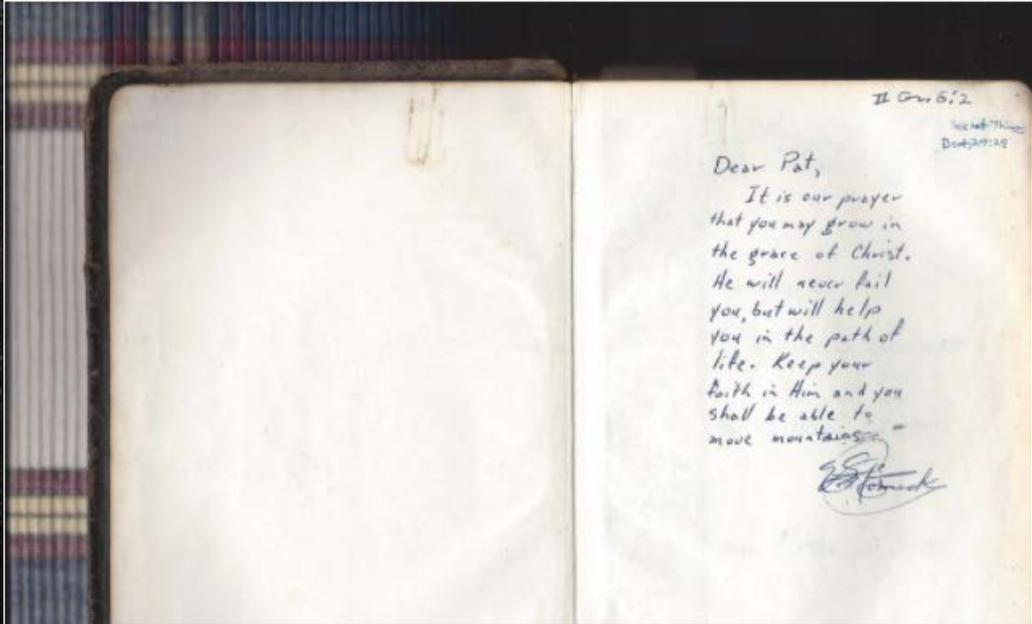
  61 10 Comments 2 Shares

Recent Facebook Postings



Patrick Gampp
November 26 at 10:53 PM · 🌐

Brother Victor McCormick wrote this in the front of the Bible that the church gave to me when I began to follow Christ. I am thankful for his and his encouragement in The Gospel over the years.



Encourage our Children

Presented to

Rick

By

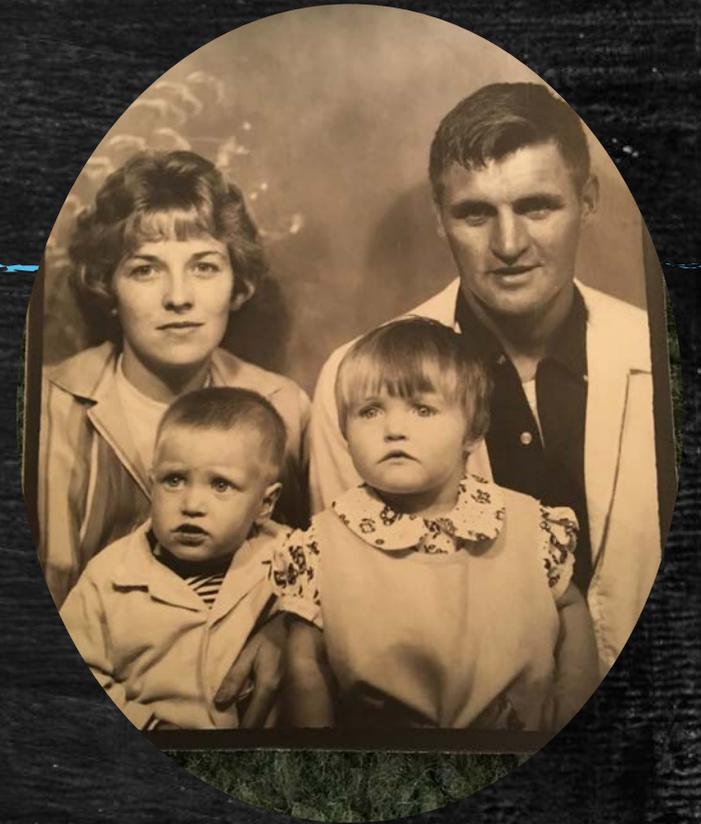
Dad & Mom

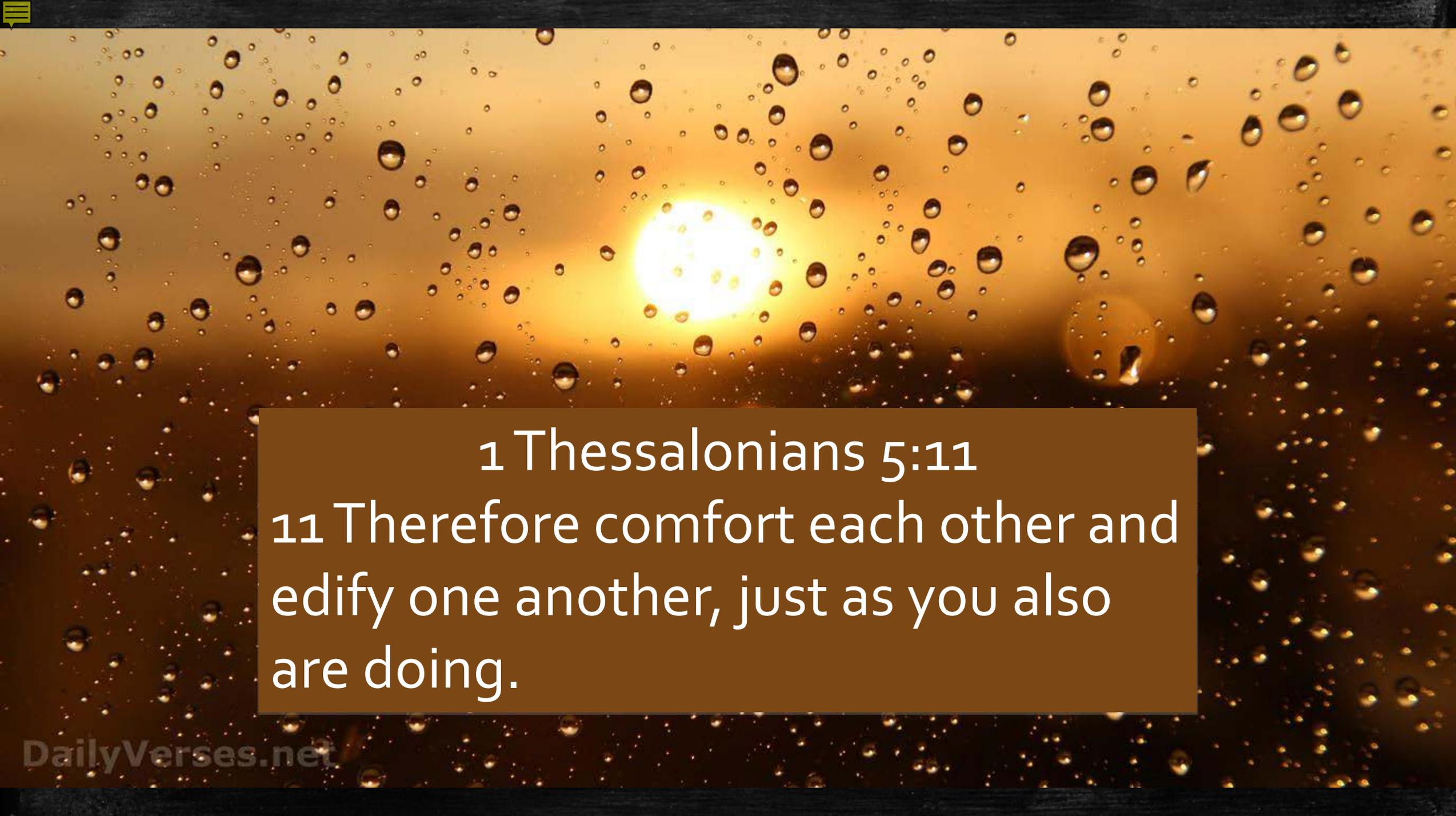
Date

June 19, 1986

NOTES

Rick,
Larry & Marlene will soon be giving you Sue, but the greatest gift I can give you is the word of God. Read it, live by it, and you and Sue will be blessed in all that you do. Remember a yr. ago when you were tiring of all the work and study? I told you to put God first in your life and eventually all these things would be yours. Well, its a yr. later; you've got ~~Sue~~, graduated, and have a wonderful job. Now, don't forget the warning I also gave you that day, "When you receive all these things don't forget the Father in Heaven who gave all this!"
May God Bless you & Sue with much happiness & continued health.
Love,
Mom





1 Thessalonians 5:11

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.