

## **Growth Group Discussion Questions For Our Growth Group- On Line Meetings**

“Knowing Is Not Enough”- Part 3

**“Encouragement: Your Gift To Weary People ”**

Week of January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Summary- Spiritual Battles, difficult living conditions, virus threats and needy people... the perfect recipe for feeling worn out and weary! The good news is... God provides encouragement through Jesus and His word, while you & I bring the relational encouragement that Believers can't live well without. The question is: Even though we might know that encouraging others needs to happen, do we find ways to make it happen through us? That's what we're talking about in this session!**

### **ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS**

1. If you had three days off, what would be the most encouraging and restoring thing you could imagine doing? (You could include your spouse in this “happening” if they figured in your experience)

### **GOING DEEPER**

#### **DEALING WITH SPIRITUAL BATTLES**

**We talked about spiritual battles on Sunday**, being a potential source of discouragement for Believers. The truth is: the battles we fight with our enemy Satan are primarily fought in our minds versus a physical assault on us, but the battles can have physical consequences. (i.e.: temptations, depression, anxiety, etc.) So we want to deal with them in ways God has provided for us.

1. Look at Ephesians 6:13-18 below and read the passage as a group.

**Eph. 6:13 “Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”**

God provides a means to sustain you through any spiritual battle you face by providing both offensive & defensive weapons you need to take hold of. Discuss what these weapons are (listed from Eph. 6) and how we should use them.

- **Put on the belt of truth-**
- **Put on the Body armor of God's righteousness-**
- **Put on the shoes of the gospel of peace (Good News)-**
- **Hold up the Shield of faith-**
- **Put on the Helmet of salvation-**
- **Take up the Sword of the Spirit-**
- **Be persistent in your Prayers-**

**Question:** Which of these defensive and offensive weapons is most in need of updating or being added to your arsenal to help you stand strong and stay encouraged? What could you do about it in the next 30 days?

## **DEALING WITH INTER-PERSONAL & PERSONAL BATTLES**

2. We're living in a time of pandemic fears and the grind of life is eating at us every day for sure. It is easy to get discouraged as the days pass by. We've been isolated from each other and limited in our ability to meet & encourage each other personally. And the result is: we've become more self-protective and focused on our own situation and survival with good reason. But, we've lost some of that loving feeling for each other for sure. What that in mind, look at the following passage:

**Hebrews 10:24** "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. **25** And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

Discuss how we can break out of our current trends and get busy encouraging one another even more going forward? (Consider the following opportunities)

1. Being a part of Baycities Lomita.
2. Getting the most out of your small group experience.

3. Your commitment to a daily time with God & His Word.
4. Your taking time to pray for each other.
5. Remembering that Jesus is returning soon!!

3. As a potentially huge source of encouragement, how does focusing on Jesus' promised return help you to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus more than the messages from the world?