



Be Encouraged (His Refreshing is Coming)

Isaiah 43:1-13

Be Encouraged! The Word of God reminds us repeatedly God is with, ahead and for us. These words do not just make us feel good about ourselves, but it is also a challenge to be something more.

Setting the Scene:

"But now" Vs 1 Israel has been revealed as blind (42:19), inattentive (42:20), falling short of the Lord's plan (42:21), defeated (42:2), sinfully disobedient (42:24), spiritually uncomprehending and insensitive (42:25)! Created ... formed: the verbs are used in their established sense, the former to bring into being, de novo, by a sole and free act of God, and the latter to fashion and mould into shape as a potter would. So the Lord determined to have a people for his very own, brought them into being, and shaped them on the wheel of circumstances.¹

⁵ God, the LORD, created the heavens and stretched them out. He created the earth and everything in it. He gives breath to everyone, life to everyone who walks the earth... ¹⁷But those who trust in idols, who say, 'You are our gods,' will be turned away in shame. Isaiah 42:5,17 (The human heart is a perpetual idol factory.)

- Encourage: to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope.

Hebrew: Chazaq (khaw-zak') to strengthen, prevail, harden, be strong, become strong, be courageous, be firm, grow firm, be resolute, be stout.²

⁹ I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; **I have chosen you and have not rejected you.** ¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you** and **help you;** I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:9-10

- Our culture confuses the word encourage with complement and praising others. This can be part of the story, but it does not cover the full definition. It is more than saying nice things to others. Biblically it is pouring into someone, instill confidence to be something more. It is coming alongside someone to teach, comfort, strengthen their faith, and change their behavior.
- Christ Followers share with others what they need to hear, not what they want to hear.

The Greek word for "encourage," parakaleo, means to call alongside The Ephesian believers are "begged or implored" to lead a life worthy of their calling. This is calling for a change of behavior. ³ **Notice this is a word used for the Holy Spirit. HE is calling us out to go where He desires. It is awakening or conscience to change wrong behavior.**

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:1-3

¹¹ So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:1

1. **Be Encouraged, God Knows All and is With You.** (Vs. 1-4)
 - When I feel overwhelmed, discouraged, stressed, and ready to give up, I am reminded He is with me.
 - Knowing someone's name shows respect, honor, and familiarity. (Look at the first person pronouns) God uses his name and calls us by name.
 - Fear occurs when the focus is on the threat, buying to predictions, and possibilities. It is giving in to the "What if's."
 - High Fear leads to High Control

¹ Motyer, J. A. (1999). [Isaiah: an introduction and commentary](#) (Vol. 20, p. 301). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

² <https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/chazaq.html>

³ <https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/parakaleo.html>

Be careful not to stare at the rivers of difficulty and fire of oppression and allow that to consume you.

Jesus paid a ransom[on your behalf. (Vs. 3) The payment has been fulfilled(Egypt and Babylonians)

⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

- Vs 4: We all have this in common. God loves us, and we love ourselves.

2. Be Encouraged, When We Gather Together. (5-6)

- When we gather, we should be infused with courage.

Ecclesia (The Church) The prefix is ek or ex, which means "out of" or "from." The root word is a form of the verb kaleo, which means "to call." Thus, ekklesia means "those who are the called-out ones."⁴

¹⁸Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'),^[1] and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell^[2] will not conquer it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid^[3] on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit^[4] on earth will be permitted in heaven." Matthew 16:18-19

²⁴Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵And 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. Hebrews 10:24-25

- When we fix our eyes on Jesus rather than problems and fear dissipates.

3. Be Encouraged; When You Call Others to Gather. (7-13)

¹¹For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, Titus 2:11-12

⁵⁸ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM! John 8:58

Share with:

- Actions: Have integrity
- Attitude: Be thankful, hopeful, and upbeat
- Words: Have faith and words to explain your God.

One Last Thought: May you experience the great encouragement from God, the creator, and the perfecter of our faith. May you be encouraged as you gather with other believers. May you be challenged to call others to gather under the banner of Christ.

⁴ <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/ekklesia-called-out-ones/>