

EXHORTATION

1. *What Is Exhortation?*

Two Greek words, a noun and a verb, are in view here:

paráklēsis (Strong's Concordance #3870)

parakalēō (Strong's Concordance #3874)

English words that translate *parakalēō* and *paráklēsis* in the NASB:

Luke 16:25 "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.'"

Matthew 8:34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region. (After Jesus had healed the Gadarene demoniacs)

Matthew 18:29 "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'"

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

Acts 16:15 And when she [Lydia] and her household had been baptized, she urged us [Paul et al], saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16:39 And they [the city magistrates] came and appealed to them [Paul and Silas], and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.

Acts 28:20 "For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel."

1 Corinthians 16:12 But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity.

1 Timothy 6:2 Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles.

a. Asking for Help

Luke 8:41

Matthew 8:5-7

Matthew 26:53

2 Corinthians 12:7-8

b. Comforting

2 Corinthians 2:6-7

Hebrews 12:5

Romans 15:4

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Philemon 7

1 Thessalonians 3:7

c. Human and Divine Comfort

Matthew 5:4

2 Corinthians 7:6

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

d. Exhorting

Ephesians 4:1-3

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12

1 Peter 5:1-3

2 Corinthians 5:20

1 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Hebrews 13:22

Romans 12:6-8

- Exhortation is the appeal to live consistently with our calling as detailed in scripture that is not coerced but urged, not grounded in earthly authority but in the love and grace of God, so that together in Christ we all grow in godliness, unity, and hope.
- Exhortation is a grace gift.
- Exhortation is a corporate activity.

2. Who Should Be Exhorting Whom?

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Acts 11:22-23

1 Thessalonians 4:18

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Hebrews 3:13

Hebrews 10:25

- Pastors are to exhort their flock.
- Those so gifted are to exhort others.
- We all are to exhort one another.

3. How Should Exhortation Be Done?

1 Timothy 5:1-2

Titus 2:15

Titus 1:9

- Exhortation should be respectful and gentle, and in accordance with one's calling, gifts, and maturity.
- Exhortation concerns the commands of scripture and the wise application of biblical principles, not opinions and preferences.
- Exhortation is not coercive or manipulative, but relies upon the Spirit to bring about change in people.

4. Why Should Exhortation Be Done?

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

1 Thessalonians 3:2-3

Colossians 2:1-3

Hebrews 3:13

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 1:10

Acts 2:40

Luke 3:18

- We all to some degree have been commanded to exhort others.
- Exhortation is the means by which unbelievers are called to repentance and faith.
- Exhortation is the means by which believers are called to obedience, growth, and maturity.

5. What is the difference between exhortation and admonition?

Colossians 3:16

Romans 15:14

1 Thessalonians 5:14

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

1 Corinthians 4:14

1 Corinthians 10:11

Titus 3:10-11

- Admonition can be simply instruction, but often is the confrontation of disobedience or the warning against rebellion.
- Whereas exhortation is a more positive term, admonition is negative.
- Admonition, like exhortation, is an aspect of life within the body of Christ.

Are you an exhorter?

How do you respond to exhortation?