

Donna's Devotional

Exhort and Encourage

. . . *It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints—Jude 3*

Jude felt an intense need to write to Christians and exhort them. Exhort means to urge on or encourage. It indicates moving toward a goal. Jude wanted to encourage his readers to contend for the faith. Contend is a verb which indicates an active competition. The New King James translates the Greek as *contend earnestly*. Jude is encouraging us to take the active wholehearted battle for our faith seriously.

We all like to be encouraged, but the encouragement from this verse is to spur us on to victory. In the case of Jude 3, we are cheered on in the battle for our faith.

We not only receive exhortation from the Scriptures, but we are commanded to exhort one another. In Hebrews 3:13 we are told to exhort one another daily. We are to encourage others today so that they will not be hardened and deceived by sin. We have a responsibility to encourage our fellow believers as they endeavor to live a life of obedience and faith.

I have to ask myself, what am I doing to encourage others in their battle against the attack of the devil? We know how good it is to receive encouragement when we are facing difficulty in our lives. I pray that the Lord will help us to be aware and willing to *exhort one another daily*. A few words of support or a simple deed can aid our brothers and sisters in their spiritual battles.

We have all watched an athletic competition and have seen the fans actively involved in rooting their team to victory. The enthusiasm of those watching can make a difference in the outcome of the event. We can make a difference in the outcome in the spiritual contests in which our brothers and sisters are engaged. We need to cheer each other on to victory.