\*ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER IN THE LORD.\*

The bible in Hebrews 3:13 says: "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today" so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin".

During the era of the early Church; the disciples were very consistent in encouraging one another to good works as they constantly win Souls. Hebrews- 10:24-25.

In sharp contrast; our own generation of believers are mostly preoccupied and often find ourselves engrossed in mundane things of this world.

We talk about our latest building project, cars, contracts, politics, fashion, Premiership, La liga and the rest; to the extent that many supposed belivers are already out of Faith but since they are still in church; nothing seems different.

I went shopping lately and a young man came pricing a pair of shoe.

As they told him the price; he exclaimed:"hah, I need to work harder this year"

Then God spoke to me; tell him what he needs is my Grace. I did as I was told and the young man was very appreciative of those words.

He re-echoed the saying to my hearing.

Indeed, the Grace of God is all we need. Just like the song:🎤

" Give me Grace to follow

Abundant Grace to follow.🎹

Your Grace is enough for me"

In the evening of that day; I met with a senior believer and we discussed about business, property and acquisition of land and stuffs.

I went to bed pondering upon how I had spent my day and slept off.

About 1:30 am; God woke me up and reminded me of a similar experience I had with another senior believer:

On that fateful day; I boarded an aircraft in the company of my 2 elder brothers.

I was seated beside the senior believer I know in the Faith; while my brothers were seated on the other side of the aisle.

I exchanged pleasantries with the man and I mistakenly press the "wrong button"🛑 I asked him: "How is your car doing Sir"?

That was because the last time I was under his ministration he preached about his latest car. It was obvious he loves cars.

In response to my question; he began talking about his latest cars & their performance to the extent that it became quite unbearable for people seated close to us; including my beloved blood brothers.

Everyone around us started turning their heads to give us the cautionary look. 🌝

We disembarked from the aircraft; but my brothers could not hold their disdain and they ask : Who was that man?

I replied, a Pastor I know. Then, they descended heavily on me;🗣🗣

How can he get carrried away in such talk; for such a long time? That, had he used the time to evangelize; it would have been profitable.

It was like: "God please come to my rescue now" 🙏🏼

That incident was humiliating for me as a Christian. I can never forget it in a jiffy.

The bible says: Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.1 John 2:15.

This is not intended to judge any man,

but without any doubt; that experience on the aircraft contradicts what Jesus says in Mathew 5:16: \*"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"\*

Accordingly, we

must always stir one another up wherever we meet; you never know what your fellow believer is going through.

Backsliding is on the increase now; even the very elect are struggling to keep up with the Faith.

In Acts 4:36, the bible talks about Joseph a Levite also known as 'Barnabas'; which means "Son of Encouragement"

Barnabas was Apostle Paul's companion and of course Paul stands out in the habit of always encouraging others in all his letters to the believers.

It is important to distinguish between flattery and encouragement.

Flattery is using excessive kind words to praise someone in order to please them or get something.

It could be very deadly for a believer to indulge in flattery. Proverbs 29:5.

Encouragement on the other hand is; using words of God or good works to stir up another.

1 Thess 5:11.

Encouragement helps us to keep our focus on \*Jesus\* and also gives us the consciousness that we are not alone.

However, when your fellow believer is going off the track: \*rebuke him, if he does not listen; speak out-\* 🦉 though it feels hurt.

James 5:20.

 \*Better is open rebuke than love that is hidden".\*

Proverbs 27:5

The bible says: He who rebukes a man will afterwards find more favour than he who flatters. Proverbs 28:23.

Let hypocrisy be far from you!

In Gal 2 :9-14::Apostle Paul-the \*least\* of the disciples confronted "Peter the Rock" before everyone.

 \*I oppose him to his face, for what he did was wrong.\*Gal: 2:11

🍲4⃣thought!

Encouragement can come in different forms:

✅When a fellow believer engages in service or does something in the Christendom; it is obligatory of you to say Godly words to encourage him or her.

Apostle Paul in Philippians 2:3 -says : " Let nothing be done through strive or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves".

✅ Encourage others through

exhortation words- spoken, written: through sms, WhatsApp Facebook etc.

Do away with gossip, mischief, false witnessing and breeding discord among brethren. Prov: 6:16-19.

✅ Encourage one another through giving. Galatians 6:9-10.

Giving should not be seasonal.

In the morning sow thy seed, in the evening withhold not their hand; for thou knowest ....

Ecc 11:6.

That little gesture that seems insignificant to you may go a long way to keep another person in the faith.

✅Lastly, my Lord Jesus Christ says:

" \*Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"\*

Mathew 26:41.

Watchfulness: sees temptation afar off; while prayer gives strength to avoid or withstand temptation.

Engage in consistent prayer for one another and the body of Christ in general.

In conclusion, you need to examine your self; if you are still in the Faith.

2 Cor 13:5.

They say: "Once a soldier always a soldier"

However, \*"Once saved; always saved "\* has no validity in Heaven!

 \*Are you still standing? \*

Quicken yourself and others with the word of God and His Grace shall keep you firm to the very end in Jesus name. AMEN

Rev 3:21.

✝If this message resonates in you; \*share it.\*

Though the author might not be familiar now; but the God behind him is \*JESUS\* !

Signed, Bro Cole