

Embrace

Experience- leads to the Goal: Full Maturity

[1 Corinthians 14:3]

“The marvelous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no limitations to overcome. The hilltop hour would not be so wonderful if there were not dark valleys to traverse.”- Helen Keller

1 Corinthians 14:3 “...the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.”

[1] Edify

- Romans 14:19
- Ephesians 4:12, 16
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

[2] Exhort

- Philippians 4:2
- 1 Thessalonians 2:12
- Hebrews 10:24-25

[3] Console

- 1 Corinthians 14:3
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14

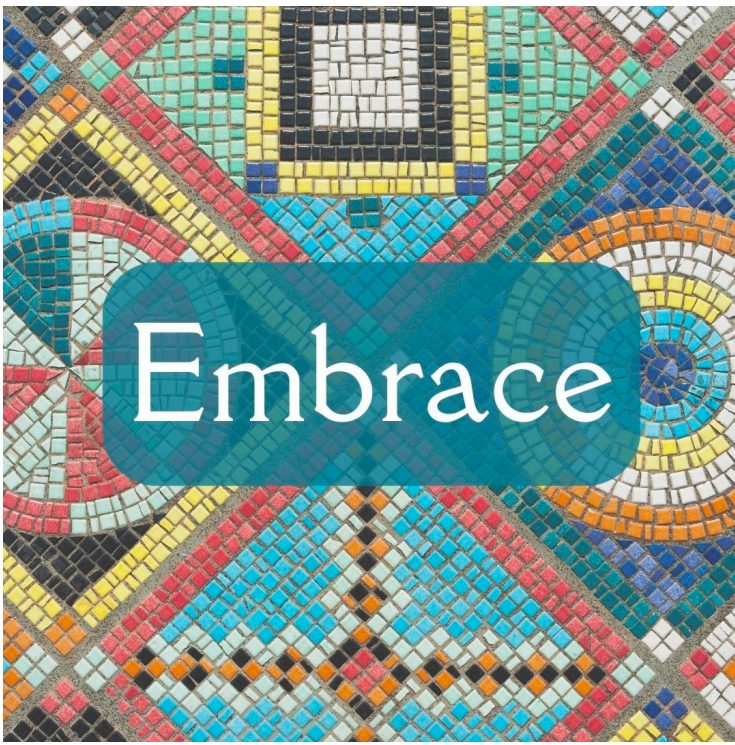
1 Corinthians 14:1-5 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. 3 **On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.** 4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

Romans 14:16-19 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 **So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.**

Ephesians 4:1-3, 7, 11-16 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ... 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ... 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,** 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 **Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.**

Philippians 4:1-3 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. **2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.** 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.



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Discussion Questions/Prayer

1. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5. How should we understand “prophecy” and “prophecies” in these verses?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12. What metaphors did Paul use to describe his ministry? Who has been a spiritual caregiver in your life? Who in your life has the responsibility to exhort you and do they know it?
3. Review what you know about yourself, who you are, what your S.H.A.P.E. is. Have you discovered, developed, and directed your shape to have Kingdom Impact, Eternal Significance. Also Review what you know about God and who He is. Are you doing what is possible for His Kingdom, serving His will, so that you are apart of what He does, the impossible.
4. Pray for God to show you what He has for you. Based on your gifts, passions, abilities, personality and experiences God has something that only you can do. Even in the experiences that were painful, God doesn't waste the hurt. Pray for God to give you eyes to see.

*Questions 1 & 2 from Life Connections Study Bible

1 **Thessalonians 2:1-14a** For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. 3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. 5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. 14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea.

15 **Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

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1 **1 Thessalonians 5:12-22** We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 **And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.** 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 **Do not despise prophecies,** 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.