Encouragement - Philemon 1:4-7

**4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints; 6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for the sake of Christ. 7 For I have had great joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.**

Encouragement comes in many forms. Could be a nice word, or an award. It could come from family who really sees how hard you are trying. It comes in many shapes and sizes. The most encouraging things can change your whole outlook on life in a moment. It is these encouraging acts or words that may keep many of us going during rough times.

It seems from the bible that the apostle Paul was constantly in prison or being hunted. It must have been so discouraging at times to know that at a moment's notice you could be put into prison or worse for just trying to spread the good news of Christ. This never stopped Paul. Paul preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified to everyone who would listen and even to those who did not try and listen to him. Paul never really seemed to be discouraged, in his letters Paul made mention how uplifting it was to have people such as Timothy, Titus, and Philemon just to name a few, spreading the gospel as well.

Paul constantly offered those he loved and cared for words of encouragement, he uplifted them in prayer and always checked in on them to ensure that they knew they were not alone. Christ gave us the church, Christ gave us people around us to uplift us when we are down and do not feel like we can do anything right. Christ comforts us in our sadness and is constantly encouraging us through His word and through the Saints.

Remember this week to uplift people in prayer, give and encouraging words to those who are your brothers and sisters in Christ. Do not neglect to read your Word and speak to your Father in Heaven, and as always spread the gospel to all who will hear and even to those who will try not to hear.

Classes may take their place.