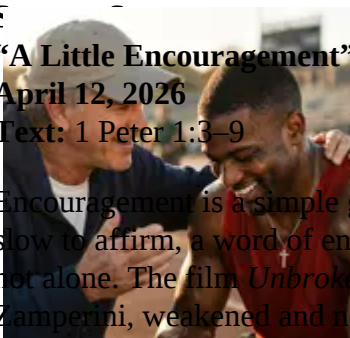


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“A Little Encouragement”

April 12, 2026

Text: 1 Peter 1:3–9



Encouragement is a simple gift, yet it carries remarkable power. In a world quick to criticize and slow to affirm, a word of encouragement can strengthen a weary heart and remind someone they are not alone. The film *Unbroken* captures this truth in a powerful scene where Olympic runner Louis Zamperini, weakened and nearly defeated in a prisoner-of-war camp, finds the strength to continue because fellow prisoners quietly encourage him. Their words restore his courage in a moment when it is almost gone.

The apostle Peter understood how deeply people need encouragement. His first letter is written to Christians who were experiencing hardship because of their faith. They were scattered, pressured, and tempted to lose heart. Peter does not pretend their struggles are small, but he reminds them of something greater. Because of God’s mercy, they have been “born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” Their trials may test their faith, but they do not define their future. Christ’s resurrection means their hope is alive.

Peter recognizes a reality many believers experience: faith does not usually disappear all at once. More often it slowly weakens when discouragement sets in and people begin to feel alone. That is why encouragement matters so much in the life of the church. Encouragement is not merely politeness or positive thinking. It is one of the ways the living hope of the resurrection moves through the community of faith.

In Christ, our identity as God’s people is secure through grace before anything we accomplish. Where we falter in faithfulness, Christ has already been faithful. Because of that, believers are called to strengthen one another along the journey.

Encouragement often appears in ordinary moments. A supportive word, a quiet affirmation, or a reminder that someone’s effort matters can help another person take the next step in faith. These simple acts build up the body of Christ and reflect the kingdom of God breaking into everyday life.

Sometimes encouragement itself becomes a ministry. Through it, God sustains hope, strengthens faith, and helps people keep running the race set before them.