

Day 09 – *January 21*

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Becoming an Encouragement for Others

Key Verse: Luke 22:32

“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:32

This passage reminds me of two very important aspects of prayer. One is that prayer is an opportunity to encourage those around you who are facing difficulty, and the second is to be reminded that with God all things are possible.

We have all had moments where we feel like we are reaching the end of what we are capable of. As we connect with God through prayer, we find encouragement, peace, and purpose. But prayer is also an opportunity for us to practically care for those around us who might be wavering. The comforting truth is that just as Jesus prayed for Simon while he was on earth, he continues to intercede for all of us (Rom 8:34) in heaven right now. We can rest on this truth and allow it to re-invigorate us for any future challenges, learn from it, so that we in turn, can strengthen those around us who feel like they are being pressed by the enemy.

Encouragement is vital in our journey with God because it strengthens both the giver and the receiver. In this passage, Jesus doesn't pray for Simon to avoid the challenges, but that his faith would remain steadfast through them. Encouragement is a powerful act of faith, helping to lift others up when they feel weak or overwhelmed.

When we pray for others, we invite God's strength and presence into their struggles, offering hope and guidance. In turn, we are also blessed by the act of encouragement, growing stronger in our own faith and dependence on God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

What areas of my life need God's encouragement and guidance right now?
When have I felt God's strength during difficult times, and how can I share that with others?
How can I be more intentional in encouraging those around me through prayer?
Who in my life needs encouragement today, and how can I pray for them?

PRAYER:

God, thank You for the gift of encouragement that strengthens us and those around us. Help us to become vessels of Your love and support to those who are struggling. May our prayers lift others up and point them to the hope and peace found in You. Amen.