

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (MSG)

So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.

Before we get into today's verse, I want to look at something James said in his letter, which is,

† **James 3:6** *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.*

And if you read all of James chapter 3, you will read that James is talking about how we can use the tongue (our words) to tear people down, so much so that it has even caused wars, simply because of what others have said. Even in churches, it has caused division and strife. Yet Jesus has an answer for that which is:

† **Mark 10:43** *Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.*

“Yet it shall not be so among you” Because we should not be tearing each other down with our words, (the tongue) but rather, we should be building one another up as it says in today's verse.

† *“speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this”*

As James talked about how we can tear down others and hurt others with our words, Paul also reminds us that we can also build up one another with our words as he said *“speak encouraging words to one another”*.

So, how do we do that you may be thinking, because sometimes it's hard to build others up when all they do is tear down and say mean things. Jesus said, *“But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”* **Matthew 5:37**

Maybe stretching this verse a little, think of your “Yes” or “No” as you have one of two choices, you can either speak good, kind words of encouragement when you open your mouth, which would be the “Yes”. Or, you can speak mean evil words that tear down others when you open your mouth, which would be the “No”.

Also, think of Jesus, who when He was on the cross and all these people were beating Him and yelling all kinds of profanities at Him, and he responded with:

† **Luke 23:34** *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*

But He didn't have to say that. In our eyes Jesus would have had every right to speak against them and say mean things that He knew about each and everyone one of them (Because He is God), those deep dark secret sins that they all did, tearing them down, and they would have been true things that Jesus could have said about them. But instead Jesus chose to love them anyway by going to the cross and dying for them. But also by what He said in regards to them and their sin, as He was being crucified and spoken against by them, and Jesus' words towards them were, "**Father, forgive them**"

Now, I know that sounds great for Jesus, because He is God and He can do this. But the thing is, so can we, because we have a choice to build up others or tear them down with our words. And if you struggle with building up others, ask the Lord to help you, confessing that you can not do it of your own power, but that you can by the same power and Spirit that Jesus was able to. All you have to do is ask Him.

† **Luke 11:13** *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*

† **Romans 8:11 (NLT2)** *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.*