

## Ezekiel 12:25

***For I am the LORD. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed; for in your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and perform it," says the Lord GOD.' "***

If you have seen the "Back to the Future 2" movie, you will remember that there is a book taken from the future to the past that has all the names and numbers of winning football, baseball, basketball games, horse race winners etc... So since you would know in advance who the winners would be, you would know who to place all your money on to get back even more money. You would also know which team to be rooting for, because you would know who would win the game.

Yet, we have the same thing with the bible. If you have read the last book of the bible, Revelation, then you know that we as believers win, and we do because of our high coach (so to speak) YAHWEH, our AWESOME GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!!!

But some say or think, "*Well, we already know who is going to win, so why bother to even pray or do anything, because it won't affect the outcome?*" Just in my scenario of rooting for the winning team, because you know they are going to win anyway, that is in a sense the same thing you do when you pray and do for others, you are rooting for the winning team.

When you watch a game on TV, like football or basketball, don't the players, including the ones on the sidelines root for one another? And they do so, because even though they may be winning or even losing, they are an encourager to each other to keep on keeping on, and a lot of times that little nudge of encouragement is all a player needs to go out there and do their best, which in most cases can turn a game around when the losing team ends up winning.

So, who have you been encouraging lately? Maybe you don't see your pastor struggling or a friend, or a coworker, or a stranger, or an usher, or a greeter, or the people in the coffee ministry, or the worship team, or those who clean the church, or those who help out in the parking ministry or... But you know what, everyone needs encouragement.

Think of Jesus when He was praying in the garden right before He was to be lead away to be crucified. Didn't Jesus pray *saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."* **Luke 22:42**

But even with Jesus' awesome prayer of wanting the Father's will to be done, He still needed that encouragement, and God did send that encouragement to Jesus.

† ***Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. Luke 22:43***

So, once again, who do you know that needs encouragement, or maybe you don't know that they need it, yet they do. Why not spend more time encouraging others instead of attacking others, gossiping about others, or telling others how to do their job. How often do you need encouragement? Now go and do likewise.

† *And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:37*

† *Acts 9:31 (NLT2) The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.*

† *Romans 15:4-5 (NLT2) Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.*

† *Ephesians 4:29 (NLT2) Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*