

Heb 10:24 (NLT)

Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.

Did you know that it's ok to say thank you to someone in a ministry?

A lot of times I think people are afraid to say thank you to those serving. I suppose their mentality is that if they do, that person will lose their reward in heaven.

They even base it on scripture like:

† **Matt 6:1-4** *Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

But if you say thank you to someone in ministry, that does not fall into what Jesus is saying here. What Jesus is speaking about is those who do the ministry to get a pat on the back, and to be lifted up by men.

For example, your pastor is not up there teaching so he can hear how great you tell him that he is. No, he is doing it for your benefit, not his.

But if someone goes around boasting on all that he has done for the Lord, looking for those to tell him how great he is that is what this scripture is talking about.

But I wonder how much it would make your pastor's day, if you just went to him and said thank you for all that he does? We tend to think that all they do is sit in their office all day studying the bible. That is such a small part of their day and night. If you only knew how many people they counsel with problems that you could not imagine. How many funerals and hospital visits they do. Or dealing with things like a mother crying her eyes out because her little baby just got hit by a car. If you can imagine it, I feel safe to say that your pastor may have been called to help out those going through those things and more.

Maybe it's not your pastor you need to go to, maybe it's your kid's Sunday School teacher that you need to say thanks to. If you're like me, I am not a card person. If I wait to write a thank you note, it will never get done. But it doesn't mean you can't or that you can't buy them a token of your gratitude. Me, I prefer to do it in person right when I think about it.

But it doesn't matter how you do it, just as long as you *Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.*