

The Ministry of Refreshing

by David Wilkerson

The ministry of refreshing is a powerful way to bring healing and comfort to those who are hurting, often through the help of fellow believers.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 23:16-17, Proverbs 17:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Matthew 11:28, Acts 27:3, Romans 15:1-2, Galatians 6:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 2 Timothy 1:16-18, Hebrews 10:24-25

Topics: "Ministry of Refreshing", "Encouragement in Community"

Description

David Wilkerson emphasizes the vital role of believers in the ministry of refreshing one another, as illustrated in Acts 27 and 2 Timothy. He highlights the example of Onesiphorus, who sought out Paul in his suffering, demonstrating unconditional love and support. Wilkerson argues that true healing comes from a refreshed spirit, which can combat depression and mental anguish. He also draws parallels to David's experience with Jonathan, who provided encouragement during a time of distress. The sermon calls for believers to actively seek out and uplift those who are hurting, showcasing the power of community in spiritual healing.

Transcript

In Acts 27, Paul was on a ship headed for Rome when the vessel came to a stop at Sidon. Paul asked the centurion in charge for permission to visit some friends in the city, and "Julius...gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself" (Acts 27:3). Here is yet another instance of God using believers to refresh other believers.

We see this also in 2 Timothy, where Paul writes of a certain believer:

"The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: but, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.... And in how many things he ministered unto me" (2 Timothy 1:16-18).

Onesiphorus was one of Paul's spiritual sons and he loved Paul so deeply and unconditionally that he sought him out in his sufferings. Once, when Paul was jailed, Onesiphorus went through the city looking for him until he found him. His motivation was simply, "My brother is hurting. He has suffered the terrors of shipwreck, and now he's being buffeted by Satan. I have to encourage him."

The ministry of refreshing clearly includes seeking out those who are hurting. We hear a lot of talk about power in the church these days: power to heal the sick, power to win the lost, power to overcome sin. But I say there is great, healing power that flows out of a refreshed and renewed person. Depression, mental anguish or a troubled spirit can cause all kinds of physical sickness, but a spirit that's refreshed and encouraged--one that's made to feel accepted, loved and needed--is the healing balm needed most.

We find this ministry of refreshing in the Old Testament as well. When David was being hunted down by King Saul, he was exhausted and hurting, forced to run day and night. During that time, he felt rejected by God's leaders and God's people. Then, at a crucial moment, David's friend Jonathan came to him: "Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David...and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee" (1 Samuel 23:16-17).

That was all David needed to hear and immediately his spirit was refreshed to go on. We see this example time after time in Scripture: God sends not an angel or a vision, but a fellow believer to refresh his beloved ones.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/david-wilkerson/the-ministry-of-refreshing/>

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