



Don't miss out

Pastor Andy

Yesterday was a typical and fascinating day for me. I had a lot going on; many teaching lessons and meetings. Not to mention, because I was preaching the boys wanted to have a rough night on Saturday night (that is typical – it's like they know).

Anyway, I could tell in Sunday school that I was having difficulty with my speech. There are many reasons for this: being tired, stress, uncomfortable, my breathing pattern is off, not all sensors in the brain are triggering, etc... I like to blame Satan.

Anyway, my difficulty in Sunday school rolled over into the main service and because I was preaching, I was also in charge of the opening prayer and announcements. It was during this time that I could feel I was having a difficult time: the "ums", long drawn-out "ahs", words are not coherent and long pauses. Basically, it was everything that would earn me a solid C- in speech class.

Anyway, when I was done with the announcement I walked back to the sound board to ask them a question and when I walked back up to the front (by way of the hall way next to the choir room and library, I paused, stopped walking, and prayed real quick for some help.

Immediately I felt better and I pray that the words of our Sovereign Creator, Lord and Savior, & Almighty God were clear during the message.

Anyway, I was encouraged after our morning service in finding out that about the time I was standing in the hallway praying, there were several in the sanctuary that were doing the same thing; People who noticed and understood why I was having a difficult time and decided to silently, and to themselves, pray as well. This was wonderful and so encouraging.

This has had me thinking though for about 24 hours. I know that I am one of the pastors and the church would know me probably a bit better than others, but how well do we know each other that if someone was struggling, we would be able to recognize it and start praying almost immediately?

Hebrews 10:23-25 says, "²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." (NASB)

As a body of believers we have been given a unique privilege of access to God because of the priestly work of Christ. The author in Hebrews is exhorting his readers to:

Approach God faithfully – this is found in verse 22

Firmly maintain our hope (v.23)

And to find ways to encourage one another (vv. 24-25)

Just as I was so heavily encouraged yesterday, there are others who need this encouragement as well. How well do we know our localized heavenly family? Can we notice when someone is in pain, struggling, sad, or emotionally strained? Can we notice when someone is happy, pleased, or rejoicing?

Don't miss out on the gift and opportunity to encourage one another.