

FUEL UP WITH ENCOURAGEMENT

SCRIPTURE:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 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 (Hebrews 10: 23-25).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Gas Can

MAIN MESSAGE:

We need Christian fellowship!

SONG: "We Are One In The Spirit"

LESSON:

Don't you hate running out of gas? I hop on my dad's new lawnmower and set off to mow the grass in my new yard for the first time. This was no ordinary lawnmower either. Aside from the fact that it was a riding lawnmower, it came complete with cruise control, fully hydraulic mower deck lift, clippings bag, and power steering. This was the best John Deere had to offer: the lawn warrior arming for battle.

I cruised to my yard at a snappy 7mph and started the process of turning the jungle around my house back into a lawn my family could enjoy. After only a few circuits of the lawn and a clippings dump the mighty lawnmower began to splutter, a telling sign of low fuel. The one thing this masterpiece of a grass cutting machine did not have was a fuel gauge, and the one thing I did not do before setting out was check the gas.

Until science catches up to *Back To The Future II*, we will still need gas in our tank to make our cars, lawnmowers, leaf blowers, and weed eaters going. No matter how carefully we take care of our power equipment, it will not run without gas in the tank. Much like the lawnmower needs gas or the marathon runner needs food, our spiritual bodies need fuel to keep going as well.

Throughout the New Testament we see the first century Christians spending time with one another and encouraging one another. Christians today need the same kind of interaction of fellow Christians to keep the Christian fight going strong. The writer of Hebrews told the first century Christians to meet regularly and to encourage each other. How much more should we do so? If we want to stay fueled up and ready for every good work, we need a steady flow of Christian encouragement.

PRAYER: Thank you for our Christian family. Help us to be a great encouragement to someone this week.