

Engage the Fight

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

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But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Main Point

We are in a battle for souls,
and we are called to engage the fight
through personal preparation and
by purposeful cooperation.

A blurred map of Europe serves as the background. The map shows major landmasses and some geographical features, though they are out of focus. Overlaid on the map is the text "Engage the Fight Through Personal Preparation." in a large, bold, black font. The text is centered horizontally and vertically. In the background, some faint text is visible, including "VÚGTH, v. v. i." and "Národní technický".

**Engage the Fight
Through Personal Preparation.**

1 Thessalonians 5:8

But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God.

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But since we are of the day, let us be sober,

having **put on the breastplate** of faith and love,
and as a **helmet**, the hope of salvation.

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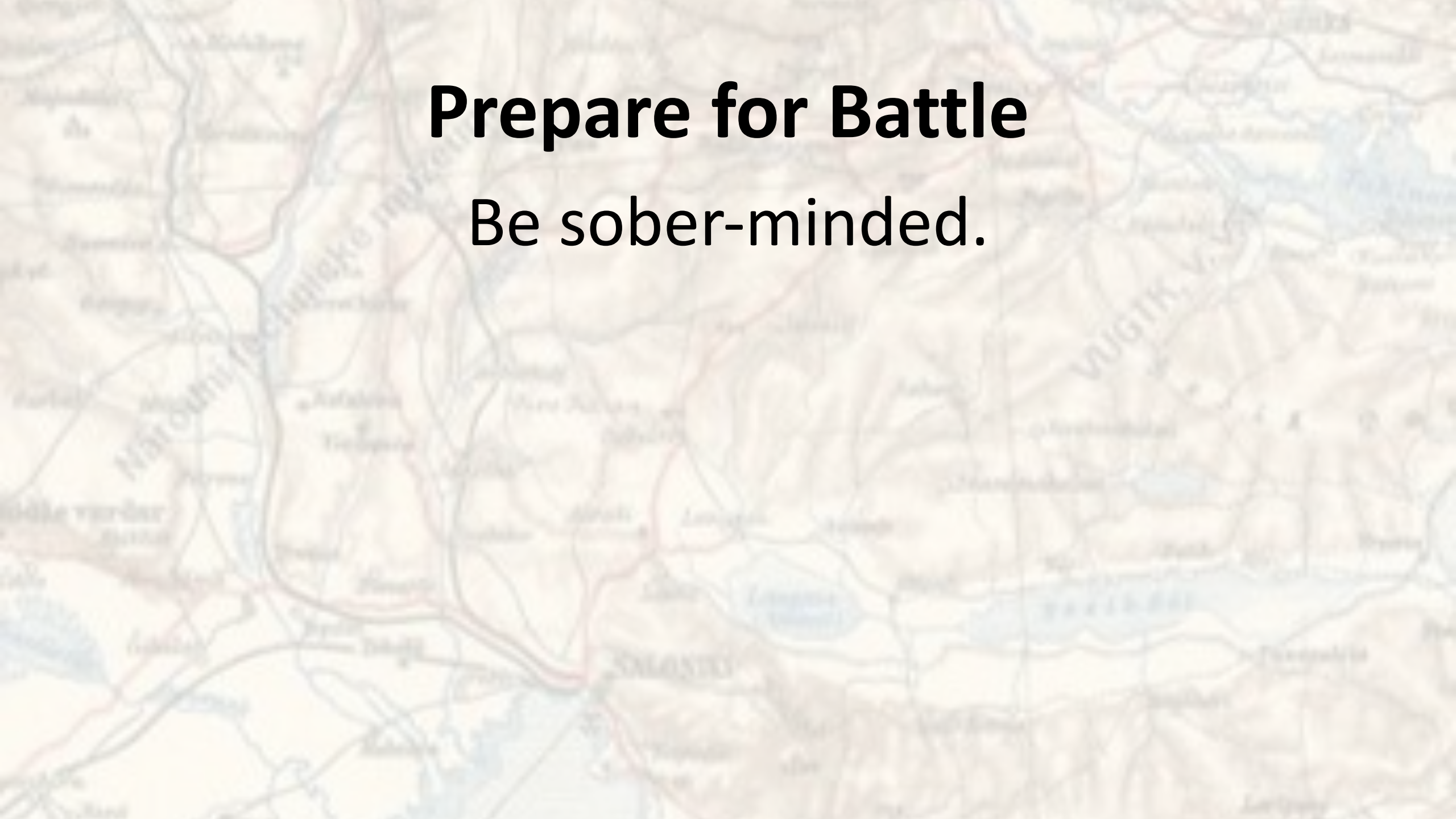
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A faded topographic map of a region, likely in the Balkans, showing a network of rivers and terrain contours. The map is light-colored with blue lines for water and brown lines for elevation. The text is overlaid in the center.

Prepare for Battle
Be sober-minded.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

But since we are of the day, let us be sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

We, being of the day, let us be sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

We, *being* of the day, **let us be sober.**

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

We are not of night nor of darkness;
so then let us not sleep as others do,
but let us be alert and sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

We, *being* of the day, **let us be sober.**

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

We are not of night nor of darkness;
so then let us not sleep as others do,
but **let us be alert and sober.**

We are called to a sober-mindedness
that results in self-control.

1 Peter 5:8

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert.

Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

Be of **sober** spirit, **be** on the **alert**.

Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

Be of **sober** spirit, **be** on the **alert.**

Your adversary, **the devil, prowls around** like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to devour.

We are to be always alert,
knowing that our enemy is crafty
and always looking for an
opportunity to attack.



Prepare for Battle

Be sober-minded.

Put on your armor.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

But since we are of the day, **let us be sober**,
having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

But since we are of the day, let us be sober,

having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and helmet, the hope of salvation.

Putting on the armor is *how* we will
maintain sober-mindedness.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, be strong in the Lord
and in the strength of His might.

Put on the full armor of God,
so that you will be able to stand firm
against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, **be strong** in the Lord
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and in the strength of His might.

Put on the full armor of God,

so that you will be able to stand firm
against the schemes of the devil.

Paul's emphasis is completeness.

Ephesians 6:13-17

Stand firm therefore, *having girded your loins with truth,*
and *having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*
and having shod *your feet with the preparation*
of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up
the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish
all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

And take *the helmet of salvation,*
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:13-17

Stand firm therefore, *having* ***girded*** your ***loins*** *with truth,*

and having put on the ***breastplate*** *of righteousness,*

and having ***shod*** your ***feet*** *with the preparation
of the gospel of peace;* in addition to all, taking up

the **shield** of faith with which you will be able to extinguish
all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

And take *the* ***helmet*** *of salvation,*

and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Paul did not intend that we analyze each piece of armor and then corollate it to its part of the body.

His desire is that we be *fully* covered, and each piece points to the *one* thing that fully covers us – the gospel.

Ephesians 6:13-17

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Stand firm therefore, *having girded your loins with **truth**,*
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and having shod *your feet with the preparation*
*of the **gospel** of peace;* in addition to all, taking up
the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to extinguish
all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

And take *the helmet of **salvation**,*
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word** of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

But since we are of the day, let us be sober,

having put on **the breastplate** of faith and love,
and helmet, as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

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and **as a helmet, the hope of salvation.**

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We prepare for battle by
meditating upon the message of hope,
the gospel of our salvation,
and upon the life found in Christ.

“...who died for us, so that whether we are awake
or asleep, we will live together with Him.”



Engage the Fight

Through Personal Preparation

By Purposeful Cooperation

Encourage one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore **encourage one another** and build up one another, just as you also are doing.



Encourage One Another

How do we encourage?

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore **encourage one another** and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore ***parakaleo*** one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

This word is translated *encourage, exhort, and comfort.*

1 Thessalonians 4:18

Therefore **comfort** one another with these words.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father,
who has loved us and given us eternal **comfort** and
good hope by grace, **comfort** and strengthen your hearts
in every good work and word.

What is the content of this comfort?

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Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father,

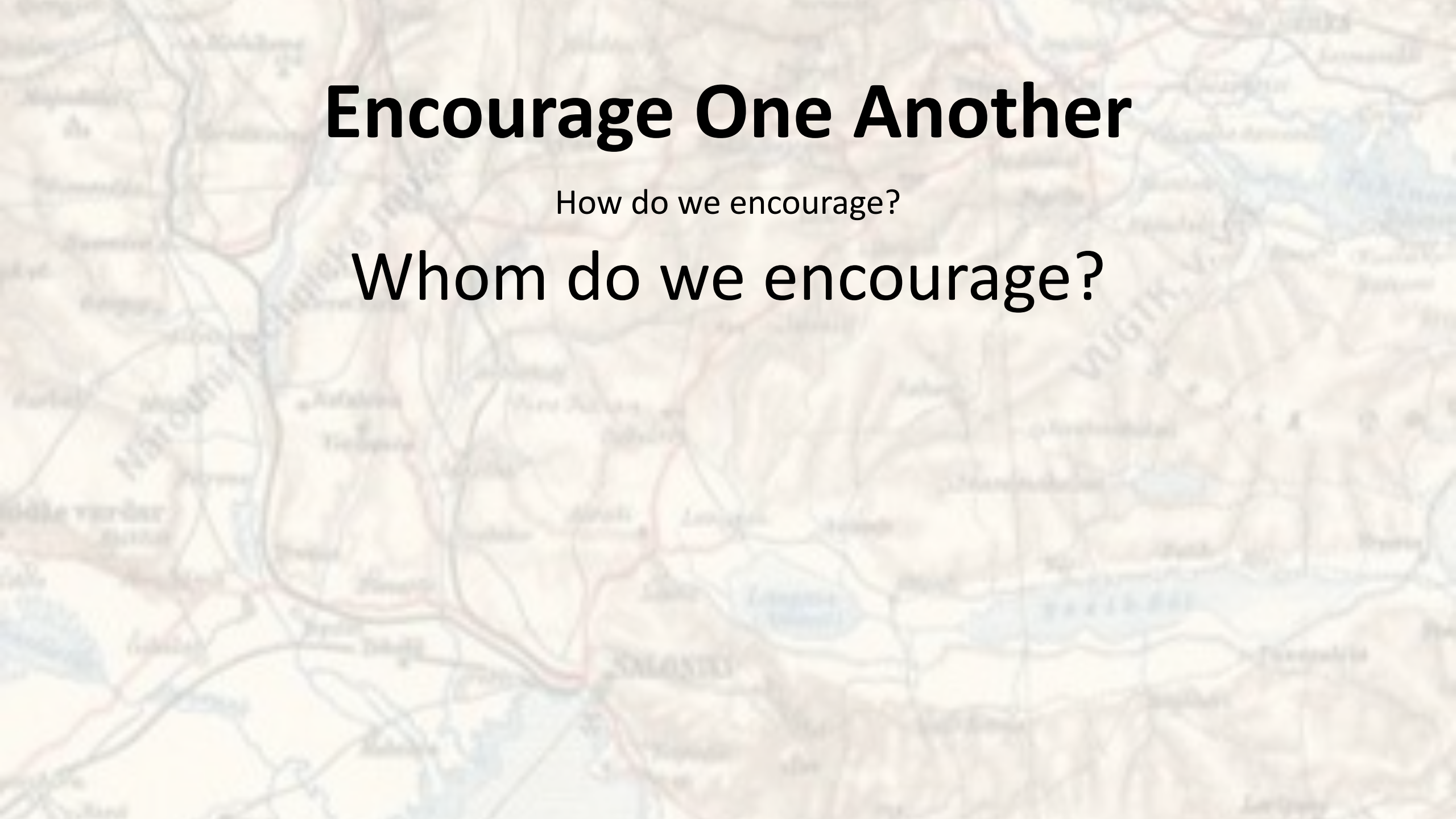
who has loved us and given us **eternal comfort and**

good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts
in every good work and word.

What is the content of this comfort?

The content of our comfort is the message of hope, the gospel of our salvation in all its rich fullness.

We are tempted to use other sources to comfort the suffering, but nothing will salve the soul apart from the hope found in Christ alone.

A faded topographic map of a region, likely in the Balkans, showing a network of rivers and towns. The map is light-colored with blue lines for water and brown lines for land. The text is overlaid on the map.

Encourage One Another

How do we encourage?

Whom do we encourage?

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore **encourage** one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

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1 Thessalonians 5:14

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

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the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Paul uses this familial and covenantal term of *brethren* 16 times in this letter.

Paul has in mind the covenantal community of saints, the family of God that is the local church.

We are to encourage one another!

But does Paul have something more specific in mind?

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore ***comfort one another*** and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

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We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

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We urge you, brethren, admonish **the unruly**, encourage
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1 Thessalonians 5:14

We urge you, brethren, **admonish** the unruly, **encourage**
the fainthearted, **help** the weak, be patient with everyone.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, **encourage**
the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Though we should comfort and encourage all our brothers and sisters, comfort is most needed in suffering.

Do you know how to comfort with the gospel?



Engage the Fight

Prepare for battle.

By Purposeful Cooperation

Encourage one another

Build one another up.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore **comfort** one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

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Build One Another Up

How do we build up?

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and **build up**
one another, just as you also are doing.

The term Paul uses is a metaphor
for construction.

Matthew 7:24

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who **built his house** on the rock.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and **build up one another**, just as you also are doing.

Building is the process of bringing material together to form new structures or add on to existing ones.

In this context, construction comes by instruction and learning.

Consider...

Even the newest believer has truth sufficient to give comfort to a suffering soul.

But the thoughts and intentions of the heart are deep waters and often require understanding to draw them out.

Proverbs 20:5

A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water,
But a man of understanding draws it out.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.



Build One Another Up

How do we build up?

Whom do we build up?

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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one another, just as you also are doing.

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Therefore encourage one another and build up

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Ephesians 4:14-16

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

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working of each individual part, **causes the growth**
of the body for the building up of itself
in love.

You have been charged to grow up
in your knowledge of the gospel so that
you will be able to build up your brother
or sister in the love of Christ.

Ephesians 4:16

...the proper working of each individual part,
causes the growth of the body

for the building up of itself in love.

Conclusion

Are you personally preparing for daily battle, knowing whom and what you fight?

Are you learning to receive comfort from the gospel so you can give comfort with it?

Are you growing in your knowledge of the gospel so you can speak truth to your neighbor in love and build him up?