

THE BULWARK

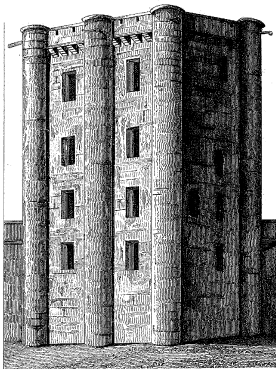
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“Mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that you may tell it to the generation following”
Psalms 48:13

“HOW TO STIMULATE ONE ANOTHER...”

Usain Bolt was an amazing athlete. A sprinter of unparalleled quickness off the blocks and with breathtaking speed he dominated the 100 and 200 meter races in which he competed. In Olympic competition he has won eight gold medals. Bolt ran the anchor leg for team Jamaica in the 4x100 meter relay during the 2008, 2012, 2016 Olympics, and team Jamaica won gold at all three. However, Usain Bolt realized that while he was driven, he was also put to the test by team mate, rival and training partner, Yohan Blake. Of whom Bolt was quoted as saying, “Over the years, Yohan has made me a better athlete. He really pushed me and kept me on my toes.” Each one of these truly amazing sprinters, spurred the other on to greatness. “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.” (1Corinthians 9:24) The operative is to run in such a way that you may win.



after day, as long as it is still called “Today”, lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

The twelfth chapter of 1Corinthians for the most part is a reminder that the church is likened unto a body, with each individual part playing a vital role in the proper functionality thereof. The church is not a social outlet, but so much more and we need one another to spur us forward with respect to personal and also collective growth. Which is something Paul also stressed to the brethren in Ephesus, “from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which 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.” (4:16)

By design, we need one another to come together in a common unity. Think of who you can come along side and stimulate with your words and actions “Therefore encourage one another, and build one up one another, just as you also are doing.” (1Thessalonians 5:11) Examples abound in the pages of the Scriptures of individuals stepping forward and working to help others “press on to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1). Seek to embrace the servant mindset as seen in Romans twelve, and strive to spur others in becoming more Christlike.

“Everyone helped his neighbor, and said to his brother, be of good courage!” (Isaiah 41:6) (wbe)

“For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” (Romans 12:4-5) As members of Christ’s body, each one of us has a responsibility and that to one another. Take note of what is seen in Hebrews 10:24, “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.” Note as well what is seen in chapter three of Hebrews and verse thirteen. “But encourage one another day