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PUSH THE RIGHT BUTTONS

"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)

The word "stimulate" seems to serve as a crux in the passage noted above. In other translations of the Scriptures, "provoke", "stir" "consider", "sparking", and "spur" are used in place of "stimulate". The definition of "stimulate" is "to excite to activity or growth or to greater activity: arouse". Which strikes a somewhat more positive turn than "provoke", which carries a definition of "...give rise to (a reaction or emotion, typically a strong or unwelcome one) in someone."

Regardless of what word is used in Hebrews 10:24, we all under the gist thereof; we have a responsibility to "push the right button" for one another. This being done in order to embrace *"love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together"*. Unfortunately too many times we "push the wrong button", maybe not intentionally, but nevertheless the deed is done. It should realize a priority to want only the best for one another.

A couple of passages stand out in 1 Corinthians, chapter twelve. *"For the body is not one member, but many"* (v 14) *"But now there are many members, but one body."* (v 20) For the body (the church) to function correctly it requires each member to do his or her part. Now there will be times when each member will need to be roused in to action. Oft times that exhortation may come from self. Re-

member that old saying, that recently resurfaced in a popular song, "Feet don't fail me now". That saying connotes a self imposed plea to keep moving forward, to not let any adversity hold you back; find a resolve within and press toward the goal.



"Whoa! That was a good one! Try it, Hobbs—just poke his brain right where my finger is!"

"Push the right button" in self in order to "push the right button" in others. Now think about what is found in Ephesians 4:15-16. *"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 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."*

In a manner of speaking, if it is to be, it is up to me,..but that doesn't mean you get "off scot free".

"Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11) How blessed it is to know the "right button" to push in others. To see them respond in a positive fashion, with an expectation that they will in turn pass it along. Pay it forward so to speak. The building up of one another is a recurring theme seen throughout the New Testament as evidenced in Romans 14:19. *"So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."*

Did you notice the word "pursue" in the just noted passage? That word carries the notion of seeking out. One dictionary notes as a synonym for pursue, "to bird-dog". In short, as children of God and member of the body of Christ we are to actively look for ways to build up one another. To push one another's button in a way to uplifts and promotes peace. (wbe)

THE BULWARK