

Social Media Opportunities for Affirmation and Support



Never in the history of mankind has so much information been literally at our fingertips. Facebook posts, Twitter tweets and Instagram photos instantaneously appear on our mobile devices and desktop computers. On our devices we see in word, images and video clips events that impact our families and friends. We view family gatherings, vacation trips and evidence of how proud parents are of their children's accomplishments. We also see what causes heartache to our on-line connections.

This information provides insight into the lives of others. We can readily see clues as to the highs and lows of their lives.

So, what do we do with this information? Facebook allows you to "like," comment or share the posts with others. The real question is – what do you do with the information? For me, a key response is to affirm people for the good things in their lives. I like to say something that projects into the future. I know God has a plan for them, and building on positive thoughts opens up a brighter future. *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10).*

Good fortune is a gift from God. We can turn that gift into a blessing that will help other people. Affirmation is a way to encourage people to move forward to help others. Affirmation builds confidence and confirms their worth as a person. Some people need encouragement to get up the courage to step out of their comfort zone. If they feel grounded they can look beyond themselves and direct their attention to serving others.

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Affirmation is a way of encouraging others to move forward in helping others.

There are some posts, however, when people are seeking love and support. They may be hurting for a variety of reasons. Often you don't know the reasons but you can see their struggles by what they post. *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).* Writing a response to someone who is hurting is more difficult, but your words can help them to rise above the situation. When people are feeling down they look inward to themselves instead of upward to God. God loves all people, and hurts with them. So, ask God to help you to share His love with others.

Electronic media is a public broadcast of information. What you say on Facebook and other media is published for others to see today and perhaps for years to come. Be careful of how you respond. Don't let your best editing be *after* you click the send button.

Your best response to their difficult situation might not be on Facebook at all, but a more personal, direct way. Should you choose to respond through social media, your encouragement may help others to express helpful thoughts. You can be the catalyst for others to rally around someone in need.

Social media can be very superficial, or it can be powerfully helpful. Consider if Facebook is the right two-way communication medium. It certainly gives you clues to what is going on in other people's lives. *Then, you can respond accordingly.*

Question: Are your social media responses superficial or do you seek to make an helpful impact on other people's lives?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We thank you for the medium of social media. Because of it, we can more readily be aware of the highs and lows of people's lives. Let us act on that information to be supportive and encouraging to others. Amen.