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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | https://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3f13af1d3e2a35ad581f9ba697fd060a4b7d8a719664a4a449058f8ff4e8c587?s=96&d=identicon&r=G | **Martha Rodman**  May 16 |   Therefore, encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NLT.  Over the past five months, workers have been re-building and restoring a mess in my back room. It has taken much longer than any of us wanted because of water damage that went undetected for years. This past week they finished their portion. We polished and sealed the concrete to prevent any potential future issues. It feels so good to get to this point.  However, we still aren't finished. My contractor told me in the beginning that he doesn't do finishing work...like taping and mudding. He said, "I am just not good at it!". So as grateful as I am that we have an enclosed room, with insulation, drywall and windows...I still can't set up the room for use. It is not finished. The future use is closer than before, but it isn't complete.  In the back of my mind, I always knew we would get it done, but it has taken so much longer than expected because of the greater damage that had been done, I had to work on keeping myself encouraged. My contractor had other jobs to complete, but did his best to accommodate mine. It just has taken time. It happens with people as well.  We might expect our children to understand life's basics before they actually do. I remember when my firstborn was almost two, and I was expecting her to know she was to sit still and be quiet during church services. I said, "you know you are supposed to be quiet". The Holy Spirit stopped me quickly, and said "when do you think she learned that?". I realized I had never taken the time to teach her! It was a sudden realization that she wasn't born with my knowledge and insight. Someone (me), had to teach her. God wants to teach us new things as He builds in us His character and wisdom, but we must be teachable and submit to Him as our teacher if we want the ultimate benefit and results.  As I watched the rebuilding process of my room, I realized there were definite steps he had to take to get to the final result I wanted and was paying for! Who knew we needed to put in French drains--what did that have to do with my room? I learned that the outside drainage of my home affects the inside. I had to trust his knowledge of building and codes were up to date and he knew what he was doing. Are you trusting God's building work in your life? Is He working in an area of your life you thought should already be finished? If you are upset about it, it probably means you are quite perfected in that area, right?  My room isn't done. I could decide to "make do" with it the way it is, but ultimately, no amount of decorating would cover an unfinished room. It is the same with God's work in us. He, the master builder, is the one who decides when His work is finished in us. I may think I have enough fruit of the Spirit to get by and He begins to dig about, prune and fertilize areas I think are ok. Do I work with Him? Or do I get frustrated and try to avoid His digging?  A few years ago, my grandson took a class in shed building through our Home Connections Homeschooling program. This included learning how to tape and mud drywall joints. He gets to practice his skills on my room. I am not expecting a professional job, but I do expect him to do a decent one. These are skills that will help him later in life, and minimally will create memories for both of us.  We are all under construction. Do not grow weary in your construction or in the construction of others around you. Keep on encouraging each other and building one another up. You won't regret it. A few years ago I prayed for a young man whose art work I saw in a school hallway. I prayed for his future and God's will and direction. This is the young man who worked in my room. I had asked many others, but this was the one who said "yes". Only our God knew my need and his.  Be encouraged, my friends, no matter what is going on in your life. Our God sees, hears, and is working good things for your present and your future. It is not easy, nor was it promised to be so, but it is going to be good.  Father, I trust you to finish the good work you have begun in all our lives. Help us work with you, not against what you are trying to do. We trust you. Make us into your image, not our own thoughts of what we think that should be. In Jesus' name, amen. |