So the craftsman encouraged the goldsmith. He who smooths with the hammer inspired him who strikes the anvil, saying, It is ready for the soldering; then, he fastened it with pegs, that it might not totter."

"Influence" - to produce an effect on another without apparent exertion of force.

"Fortify" - to strengthen; reinforce; invigorate; enrich or make better.

(Matthew 28:18-20) "make disciples ... baptizing them ... teaching them" - means to fortify!

(Acts 14:21-22) "and made many disciples ... returned ... strengthening the souls" - fortified!

1. EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE FORTIFIED

Jesus said to Peter: (Luke 22:31-34) "strengthen your brethren"

(Romans 15:1) "We then who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak"

(Galatians 6:2) "Bear one another's burdens" "Bear" - to support; to hold up; carry; fortify.

(1 Thessalonians 5:11) "comfort each other and edify one another, just as you are doing" (v14) "comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all"

(Proverbs 24:10) "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small."

Do you know anyone experiencing death, illness, family or job problems? Please use your influence, and help, to fortify them.

2. WAYS TO FORTIFY - (Romans 14:19) "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which we may edify another."

(1 Corinthians 8:1) "... but love edifies."

Use uplifting words: (Deuteronomy 3:28; Isaiah 35:3-4; Ephesians 4:29)

Point to God's word: (Acts 20:32; 1 John 2:14; Proverbs 24:5)

Encourage attendance in worship assembly: (John 4:24)

Encourage to pray: (Psalm 138:3) "In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul."

Remember our strength is in the Lord: (Isaiah 40:29; Psalm 84:5)

CLOSE: (2 Corinthians 12:19) "... But we do all things, beloved, for your edification."