

Encourage One Another

*But exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
Hebrews 3:13*

Encouragement Isn't Flattery

Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hates those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Psalms 12:3 The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaks proud things.

Encouragement literally means "**to urge forward**," "**bring out the best**" in someone, "**to inspire**," "**to spur on**," "**to stimulate**" with courage, spirit and hope. It is an earnest, frequent calling on, stirring up or persuading, encouraging others to perseverance in the Christian faith, and to put away all evil, especially unbelief, which can lead to turning away from God.

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:8 Or he that exhorts, on exhortation: he that gives, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Barnabas is a Model for the Encourager

Encouragers Take Risks To Help Others

Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took him to the Apostles and gave them an account of how he had seen the Lord on the road, and had given hearing to his words, and how at Damascus he had been preaching in the name of Jesus without fear.

Encouragers Find The Best In Others

Acts 9:27b And how at Damascus he had been preaching in the name of Jesus without fear.

People positively respond to positive and healthy reinforcement. Not always, but often, frequently, usually, people will give you what you're expecting from them.

Encouragers Are Quicker To Forgive Others

Acts 15:37 And Barnabas had a desire to take with them John, named Mark.

Encouragement Flows From Godly Confidence

Hebrews 10:19-24 So then, my brothers, being able to go into the holy place without fear, because of the blood of Jesus...

Have you ever known anyone who was insecure and able to affirm others? If we're insecure in our ability to perform some activity, we're not going to celebrate the success of others as well. It is difficult to celebrate someone else's success, cheer for them to succeed, if we don't think we already wear God's victory crown.

Encouragement is Rooted in God's Faithfulness

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

Encouragement is Focused on Celebrating Success

Hebrews 10:24. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, and righteous living.

We are to look for opportunities, to consider ways to celebrate and spur people on toward loving relationships with God and each other.

Jesus tried to make it clear what Christianity was about. Christianity is about relationships, relationships with God, and relationships with other people.

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

*A new commandment I give to you, "That you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another."
John 13:34*

Encouragement is a Great Way to Show Our Love

- *Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up. Proverbs 12:25*
- *The tongue has the power of life and death. Prov. 18:21*
- *1 Thessalonians 5:11 Encourage one another and build each other up.*
- *2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

Let's work to find ways to Encourage other believers to continue in their faith and to live their lives differently than the world does.