

The Power of Encouragement

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." II Thessalonians 2:16-17

I. Introduction

To "encourage": *"To inspire to continue on a chosen course; to infuse with courage, spirit, or hope."*

Key thought: When we encourage someone, we are actually imparting courage to them!

II. Why Encouragement Counts

We all battle moments of self-doubt, insecurity, and discouragement; we all experience moments where we can feel like giving up rather than going on. And most often, all a person needs is a little genuine encouragement to continue on—and to experience their breakthrough!

III. Encouragement Facts

1. We were all designed to _____ encouragement.

"Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up." Proverbs 12:25 (NLT)

*"...Knowledge tends to make one arrogant, but **love builds others up.**" I Corinthians 8:1*

2. The local church is God's designated place where _____ occur.

*"The **early believers devoted themselves** to the **apostles' teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. **Every day they continued to meet together** in the temple courts. **They** broke bread in their homes and **ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47*

*"And let us consider one another in order to provoke one another to love and good works. Some people have gotten out of the habit of **meeting together for worship**, but we must not do that. **In fact, we should keep on encouraging each other in our gathering**, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer." Hebrews 10:24-25*

Consider="to perceive; to consider closely; to study"

Provoke= to sharpen; to stimulate; to incite

3. Faithfully using _____ is meant to encourage the entire body.

*"Whoever has the gift of encouraging others should therefore **encourage**" Romans 12:8*

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” I Peter 4:10 (NLT)

4. We should all be _____ to be daily encouragers of one another.

“We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God’s fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith.” I Thessalonians 3:2

*“When you talk, **do not say harmful things**, but say what people need—**words that will help others become stronger**. Then what you say will do good to those who hear you.” Eph. 4:29*

*“**Words kill**, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—**you choose!**” Proverbs 18:21*

“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.” Hebrews 3:12-13

There are few things more valuable than an encouraging word.

The words spoken into your life today have a tremendous impact on your life tomorrow.

5. We should strive to be daily encouragers even to those _____.

“We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” I Thessalonians 5:14

“The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver.” Proverbs 25:11(CEV)

*“Sociologists tell us the most introverted of **people** will **influence 10,000 others** in an **average lifetime**.”— Tim Elmore*

“Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.” – George M. Adams

“Encouragement is a gift that we all have the ability and resource to give.”---Pastor Peter Leal

IV. How to Become a “Carrier of Courage” To Others Around You

1. Always remember to _____.
2. Pray for _____ to speak words of encouragement.
3. Whenever possible—or necessary---_____ for others to see!
4. Enter your day with the mindset of what you can _____ rather than what can you _____.

A thought to consider: *“If the people around you depend on your words for nourishment, are they dying of malnutrition or are they thriving?”*

Answer Key:

1. *both give and receive*
2. *shared lives and community*
3. *our gifts and talents*
4. *prayerful and diligent*
5. *outside the church world*

IV. How to Become a “Carrier of Courage” To Others Around You

1. *smile*
2. *Divine opportunities*
3. *write it out*
4. *give---get*