

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



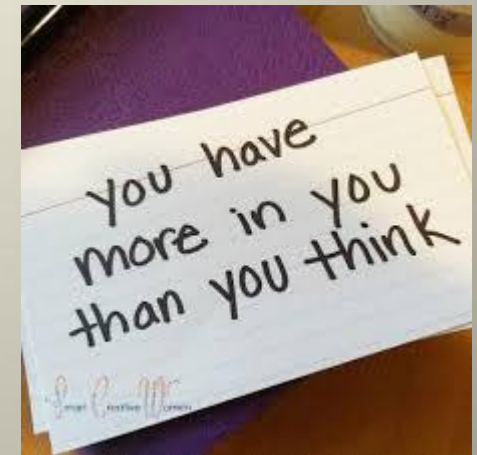
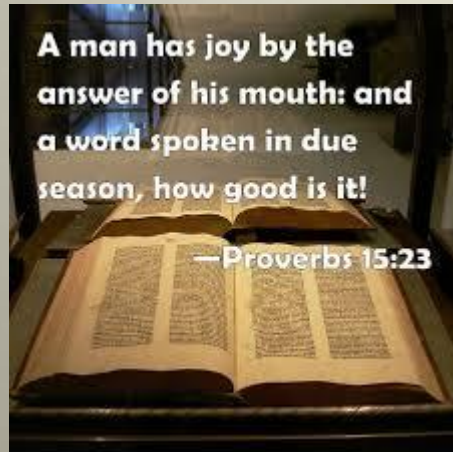
In this teaching I will be looking at the importance of encouraging one another – A great key to helping people to reach their full potential in life and in their walk with the Lord

In the book of Hebrews we read,



“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

In the book of Proverbs we read,



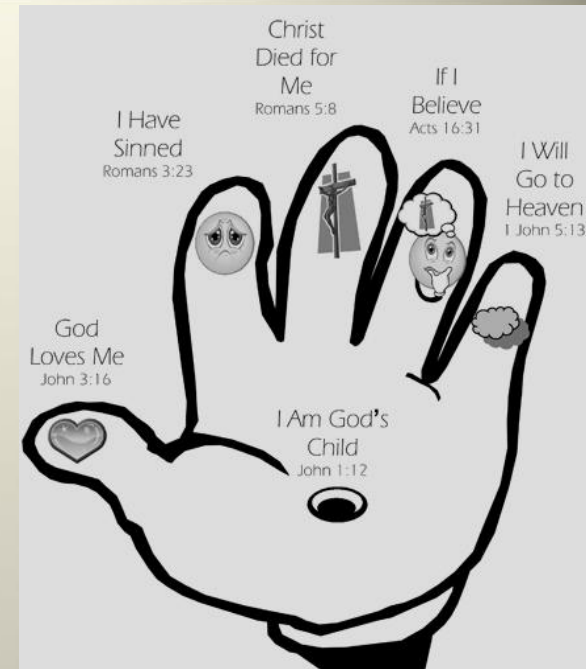
“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”
(Proverbs 15:23)

As Christians the greatest encouragement that we can give to unbelievers is the gospel message



In the book of Romans we read,

“For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: **“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”** (Romans 10:13-15)



As Christians we can share with people:

- That God loves them and wants to have relationship with them
- *That God has a good plan for their life*
- That Jesus will never reject any person that comes to Him.
- *That God is able to resurrect our broken dreams and turn our circumstances around*
- That we can have God's peace and joy even during our trials, and
- *That all those who receive Christ have eternal life*



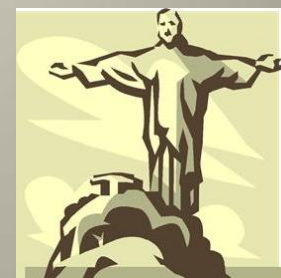
As Christians we can encourage those who are lost by sharing the wonderful hope that we have in Christ and about God's great love for them:



Jesus Himself said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

THAT:

- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bled and died on the cross at Calvary to pay the penalty for all of our sins. But that death could not hold Him down.
- Three days later Jesus Christ arose triumphantly from the dead and then forty days later ascended back to Heaven, and
- **WHOEVER** repents and opens up their heart to Him and believes in Him will receive the free gift of eternal life and have a future full of hope and great purpose and meaning



TODAY I WILL BE JUST QUICKLY LOOKING AT TWO THINGS IN RELATION TO ENCOURAGING OTHERS:

1) Why encouraging others is so
important, and



2) How we can become better at
encouraging others

1) Why encouraging others is so important



- i) It helps people to realize their full potential in life and in their walk with the Lord

God has so much in store for every person's life when they come to Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote,

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us," (Ephesians 3:20)

ii) It helps to gives strength to people who are going through trials and challenges



In the book of Acts we see Paul and Barnabas encouraging the disciples.

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, **strengthening the souls of the disciples**, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:21-22)

iii) It helps to give comfort to others – It is going to be OK



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing”

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”

(1 Corinthians 14:3)

iv) It helps to create a good and positive atmosphere in our homes, churches and workplaces

Be somebody
who makes everybody
feel like
somebody



- People thrive on compliments
- People love to feel appreciated
- Encouragement helps to create an atmosphere of love and acceptance in our spheres of influence

v) It helps to build loving and healthy relationships
and is a great key to good marriages

do not let any unwholesome talk
come out of your mouths,
but only what is helpful for
building others up
according to their needs
that it may benefit those who listen.
Ephesians 4:29



The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth,
but what is good for necessary edification, that it
may impart grace to the hearers.” (Ephesians 4:29)**

**vi) It is a key to developing good teams
(As a unified team we can achieve much – God
commands a blessing where brethren dwell
together in unity)**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“from whom the whole body, joined and knit
together by what every joint supplies, according to
the effective working by which every part does its
share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of
itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)**

vii) Encouragement and words of affirmation help people to feel loved and nurtured



In the book of Proverbs we read:

“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.” (Proverbs 16:24) AND

viii) Encouragement is an investment into someone's future

- Encouragement helps people (and especially children) to become healthy and whole and more confident in life



- So how important it is that we learn to live a lifestyle of looking for opportunities to encourage others.

“... and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!” **(Proverbs 15:23)**

2) How we can become better at encouraging others

i) We need to look for opportunities to encourage others

Seize every opportunity to give encouragement --
It is oxygen to the soul.



We must never get too busy in life so that we *miss opportunities* to encourage others that may be going through struggles and trials in life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” **(Philippians 2:3)**

ii) We need to always look for the best in others. (We need to have grace towards others and see them the way Jesus would)



Jesus reached out to us at our worst.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:6-8)

iii) Encouragement always focuses on the future (It points people to a God given future)

"FOR I
know the plans
I HAVE FOR YOU,"
DECLARES THE LORD,
"PLANS TO
prosper you
AND NOT TO HARM YOU,
PLANS TO GIVE YOU
hope and a future."
JEREMIAH 29:11

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"For I know
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In the book of Jeremiah we read,

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

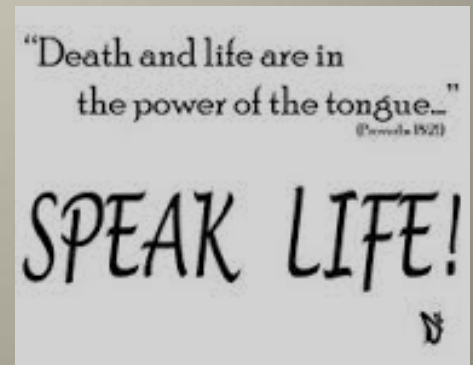
King David wrote,



“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And **forget not all His benefits**; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **who redeems your life from destruction**, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:2-5)

iv) We need to purposely continually **CHOOSE** to speak words of life

- There is great power in our words (either for good or for bad)
- We need to continually CHOOSE to speak words of life to others and over our circumstances.
- Our words affect the atmosphere and the quality of our relationships.



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Proverbs 18:21)

v) Sometimes just being there for people is the best way to encourage them when they are going through trials – Just to listen to people without offering solutions



**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water,
But a man of understanding will draw it out.”
(Proverbs 20:5)**

vi) There are many different ways in which we can encourage others

- By sending a card
- Sending a text with an encouraging word
- Texting a bible verse that God may put on your heart to send someone (A word in season)
- A phone call to let people know that you are thinking about them
- Giving someone a good Christian book to read, and
- Making time to have a coffee or meal with someone, *AND*



vii) The importance of spending quiet time with the Lord to get God's heart for people



King David wrote,

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)

Spending time with the Lord gives us God's love and heart for people and helps us to see people the way Jesus does and is a great key to helping us to consistently speak words of encouragement to others

Like King David we need to make our relationship with the Lord our greatest priority in life



I will finish with the words of King David,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.” (Psalm 63:1-3)

“Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.” (Psalm 63:4-7)



Intimacy with the Lord helps us to see life out of the eyes of faith and to consistently speak words of life and encouragement to others and over our circumstances