

## How to Be an Encourager – Part 4

### Introduction:

- This series is designed to teach you how to make a spiritually significant difference in one simple but effective way: By \_\_\_\_\_ other people.

***Heb 10.24–25*** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

***Eph 4.15–16*** Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ to speak God's Word to others so it has maximum impact.
- Six ways to speak wisely and well.

***Matt 22.39b*** Love your neighbor as yourself.

- We must practice speaking to our neighbor and listening to our neighbor in the way that \_\_\_\_\_ would like to be spoken to and listened to.

### 1. Base your advice in the \_\_\_\_\_.

***Col 4.6*** Let your speech always be **gracious**, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- What we say will be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Gospel message.
- Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ at all costs.

***Titus 2.11–12*** For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives** in the present age,

### 2. Be \_\_\_\_\_.

***Matt 10.29–31*** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- The Book of Proverbs encourages us to observe and understand and learn from the \_\_\_\_\_ that are evident in the world we live in.

***Prov 6.6*** *Go to the ant, O sluggard;  
consider her ways, and be wise.*

***Prov 21.14*** *A gift in secret averts anger,  
and a concealed bribe, strong wrath.*

***Prov 19.24*** *The sluggard buries his hand in the dish  
and will not even bring it back to his mouth.*

***Prov 21.9*** *It is better to live in a corner of the housetop  
than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.*

- We must learn to notice and pay attention to the details of people's lives so that we can speak \_\_\_\_\_ into their lives.
- Try to avoid generalized platitudes and empty clichés, and practice speaking specific words of encouragement that \_\_\_\_\_ the occasion or the person's need.

***Eph 4.29*** *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

### 3. Be \_\_\_\_\_.

***Gal 6.1–3*** *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

- Beware of your own \_\_\_\_\_ or self-righteousness.
- Speak with a goal to \_\_\_\_\_ them to the Lord, not to hurt them or drive them further away.
- We should beware of the negative effect of our passionate words and \_\_\_\_\_ reactions.

***Prov 15.1*** *A soft answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

***1 Thess 2.7*** *But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.*

- We should never be \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Tim 2.22–25** So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

**Titus 3.2** Remind them...to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

4. Be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Prov 19.21** Many are the plans in the mind of a man,  
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

- We may think we know what someone needs to hear, but we must humbly \_\_\_\_\_ that God may overrule our words or guide them with something wiser.
- The person we're speaking to will shape the \_\_\_\_\_ in which we speak to them.

**1 Tim 5.1–2** Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

5. Deal with \_\_\_\_\_ issues.

- We need to practice spiritual triage: The process of discerning the most \_\_\_\_\_ needs that require immediate attention, versus the less urgent ones.

**Matt 6.33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- We need speak so that we can bring \_\_\_\_\_ perspective to bear on the things that really matter in a person's life.

6. Know what \_\_\_\_\_ to say.

**Eph 4.25** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

**Eph 4.29** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

***Eph 4.31–32*** Let all ***bitterness*** and ***wrath*** and ***anger*** and ***clamor*** and ***slander*** be put away from you, along with all ***malice***. 32 Be ***kind*** to one another, ***tenderhearted***, ***forgiving*** one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

***Eph 5.4*** Let there be ***no filthiness*** nor ***foolish talk*** nor ***crude joking***, which are out of place, but instead let there be ***thanksgiving***.

***Prov 10.19*** When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

- The problem with talking a lot is that we don't have time to consider whether what we're saying is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- Listening well is not so much a skill to be learned but an \_\_\_\_\_ of heart and mind.
- The heart of good listening is:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ and respect for the person we're speaking with
  - Putting \_\_\_\_\_ interests before our own.

#### Conclusion:

- God's Word changes us, and \_\_\_\_\_ it can change others too.