

How to Be an Encourager – Part 1

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.***

1. God speaks powerfully through His _____.

Num 23.19 *God is not man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his mind.
Has he said, and will he not do it?
Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*

- God always does what He says He will do, and this is actually a matter of _____ and _____.

John 5.24–25 *Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.** He does not come into judgment, but **has passed from death to life.** 25 “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, **and those who hear will live.***

A. Five powerful ways God speaks through His Word.

1. God speaks powerfully to _____.

Psa 33.6 *By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.*

2. God speaks powerfully to _____.

Gen 2.17 *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

3. God speaks powerfully to _____.

2 Cor 4.6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 5.17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

4. God speaks powerfully to _____ us Himself.

2 Tim 3.16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

5. God speaks powerfully to _____ us.

Rom 6.17–18 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin **have become obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

• God's Word changes us, and _____ it can change others too.

2. God _____ His Word to change us and others.

A. Paul _____ with words of encouragement for them.

1 Thess 1.2–3 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

EXAMPLES:

- "I _____ God for you."
- "I've been _____ for you."
- "I've really _____ your faith, and works of love, and steadfast hope in Jesus."

B. Paul then speaks _____ words of encouragement to them.

1 Thess 1.4–7 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much

affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

EXAMPLES:

- “You’re _____ by God.” (1.4)
- “You’re _____ by God.” (1.4)
- “You didn’t just hear the Gospel you were fully _____ by it.” (1.5)
- “You’ve _____ our example and the Lord’s.” (1.6)
- “You’ve _____ God’s Word even though you were greatly afflicted and persecuted for it.” (1.6)
- “You’ve been good _____ to the other Christians around you.” (1.7)

C. Paul _____ the way to relate to one another in encouraging ways.

1 Thess 2.1–13 *For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. 3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. 5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. 9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. 13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.*

EXAMPLES:

- **Be willing to suffer to get the Gospel to _____ . (2.2)**
- **Never use flattery to gain something for your self, but speak to others _____; in ways that please the Lord who knows our hearts. (2.4-5)**

- Just as moms are _____ with their babies, that's how we should be with each other. (2.7)
- Just as fathers exhort and _____ their children to do what's good and right, that's what we should do for each other. (2.11)

D. Paul shows us the _____ of things to say to encourage others.

1 Thess 3.1–10 *Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, 2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, 3 that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. 4 For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. 5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. 6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— 7 for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. 8 For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. 9 For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, 10 as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?*

- What are some exhortations and encouragements we can take from this passage and use to encourage others?

EXAMPLES:

- Don't be discouraged by suffering, but _____ that we're destined for it." (3.3)
- "Don't let the devil tempt you to _____ the faith." (3.5)
- "After all you've been through, I've been so encouraged by your _____." (3.7)
- "I can hardly _____ God enough for you, for the joy you bring to my heart." (3.9)
- "I pray I can bear your burdens with you, and that I can _____ trust the Lord through this." (3.10)

Conclusion:

- **What are the names of two people that you would like to use God's Word to encourage in some way?**
 - _____
 - _____
- **The best way we can learn to truly be an encouragement to others is to learn to speak the Words of _____ into the lives of others.**