



#59977

ARE YOU AN ENCOURAGER?

Open with prayer.

Dictionary definition of the word encourage: To give courage or to give hope.

Encourage is a verb, an action word: to give help, aid, promote.

An encourager is one who builds someone up.

The opposite of encourage is to discourage, tear down.

Encourage each other every day while you have the opportunity. If you do, then none of you will be deceived by sin and become stubborn (Heb. 3:13, God's Word for Today).

1. Why is "while you have the opportunity" important?
2. Can you think of people in Scripture who were encouragers?
3. How did Barnabas encourage Paul?
4. How did he encourage John Mark?

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. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Eph. 4:29-32).

Because we know and believe the truths found in God's Word ... and we have felt the love of our Savior ... we are motivated to encourage others. We want our words to encourage, help and aid those around us. We do not want our words to drag people down and depress them.

1. When someone hurts or offends you, how do you usually respond?
2. Do you go to them first? (Matt. 18:15)
3. Do you say what you need to speak to them gently and with love? (Eph. 4:15)
4. Read Romans 15:7. Which is easier for you, to reach out to peers or to people who are different than you? Why?

5. Our words can build someone up or tear them down. Read James 3:1-10. Take time to pray about a time you were hurt or you hurt another person with words.
6. We can pray the verse below and ask God to help us at times when we are tempted to “let someone have it!” The Holy Spirit will guide us to the right words to say.

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips (Ps. 141:3).

You may want to memorize this verse so the Holy Spirit can bring it to mind when it is needed.

We pray: Dear Lord, I have not always been an encourager to my family, my co-workers, and my fellow saints. Forgive me for Jesus’ sake and enable me to encourage others. Guard my mouth so I do not hurt another with my words or tone of voice. Give me the grace needed to speak uplifting and encouraging words of hope. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Scripture is from the New International Version.