

Encouragement

CCF 1st September Ian Belton

What is encouragement?

Merriam Webster dictionary says:

“Encouragement is a way of providing guidance, feedback, and inspiration with positive language and statements. Encouragement conveys to an individual that they're doing a good job and can motivate them to maintain positive, ethical, and productive work habits.”

Biblical encouragement, though rich with affirmation, offers something far stronger and more invigorating and cultivates humility, courage and above all hope in God.

There are few certainties in life. Four things we **can** be certain of:

- **God's love for us**
- **Christ's sacrifice on the cross for each one of us**
- **Christ's resurrection**
- **Christ's return in glory**

“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 NKJV)

Encouragement is a spiritual gift from Holy Spirit:

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” (Rom 12:6-8 NIV UK)

**John quotes Jesus four time speaking about the encouragement
Holy Spirit is:**

The Spirit of Truth living within us forever (Jn 14:16-17)

Holy Spirit will teach us all things (Jn 14:26)

Holy Spirit will bear witness to Jesus (Jn 15:26)

He will convict the world of sin (Jn 16:8)

Why do we need encouragement?

- **Heb 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today', so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. (NIVUK)**
- **1 Thes 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (NIVUK)**
- **Rom 1:11-12 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— 12that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. (NKJV)**
- **Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, 25not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIVUK)**



‘Encouragement is oxygen to the soul’.

George Adams

How do we encourage one another?

- **Pray for God to make us encouragers**
- **Encourage daily**
- **Listen carefully**
- **Always tell the truth kindly and graciously**

- **Use scripture if possible**
- **Be specific in what we say**
- **Be wise and seek Holy Spirit**
- **Pray for a culture of encouragement**

And finally ...

- ***Get started !***

***May the Lord do more than we ask or even
imagine through just a little encouragement***