

Being An Encouragement

Hebrews 3:13

Introduction: Encouragement is the oxygen of the church.

God commands we be encouragers, 1 Thes 4:18, 5:11.

I. Why We Need It

Jesus warned we would have trouble in life (John 16:33)

Our world is broken: things push us to selfishness and despair

Sin steals joy, bodies break down, plans falter

We are promised suffering, 1 Pet 4:12, 2 Tim. 3:12, Jms 1:2-4

So we are needed to encourage others

II. What Is Encouragement?

It's more than a compliment: nice hair, good job

A. It is shared in hope of lifting people's heart to the Lord
Colossians 4:8

B. It is showing people ways that God is working through them

C. It is assurance that God will see them through their troubles

III. Encouragement Was Common In Early Church

Acts 13:15, Acts 16:40, Acts 18:27, Acts 20:1-2, Acts 27:36

Spur others on in faith (Acts 14:22), hope (Rom 15:4), unity (Col 2:2),
joy (Acts 15:31), Strength (Acts 15:32), perseverance (Heb
10:24-25), faithfulness (1 Thes 2:12).

IV. How To Become an Encourager?

A. Pray for God to make you one.

Pray for a removal of selfishness and a heart that loves others

Pray for an opportunity to encourage someone

B. Study Barnabas

Acts 4:36: he preached the good news, he helped others

(Saul, Mark), he persevered (Colossians)

C. Make it a daily habit

For some it comes naturally

Each day send text, call, note

D. Use Scripture in your encouragement

Psalms, Romans 8

E. Create an encouraging atmosphere in your church

Reaching inside, reaching outside

F. Reflect Jesus