

I love these oil burning lanterns. Now don't get me wrong, I prefer electricity and I don't want to live with this as my only light source at night, but I do think they are cool and great for camping or hurricanes. A great light source.

Our theme this year at Believers Church is "Shine"! Based on **Matthew 5:14-16** **"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

When I think about our light shining into a dark world, I think about how this lantern needs fuel to keep shining bright. I know we could teach as Jesus did about the fuel being the Holy Spirit. But I want us to think of the fuel a little differently the next two weeks. **I believe the fuel that's going to keep you and I shining bright for Jesus is the fuel of encouragement! We all need it to keep burning bright!**

It easy to give up sometimes, throw in the towel, and allow our lights to grow dim, therefore we need to be fueling one another with encouragement. Without fuel this lantern is useless and produces no light.

This fits right in with one of our Goals here at Believers Church "To encourage and build up all people."

Fueling one another with encouragement is something that we can all do. It is within our ability and power to do, and encouragement is something that we can easily give to one another and gratefully receive from each other as well.

## **Fuel The Light Daily**

There are certain things that we should do daily. **Examples** of Daily Task. Brush Teeth, Comb Hair, Eat, etc. Well encouragement is something that we all should do "Daily"!

**Hebrews 3:12-13 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily,** (How often?)

(How long should we continue to do this?) **as long as it is called "Today,"** (Why is encouragement so important that it should be a daily task?) **so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.**

We have the ability to help someone's walk in the Lord and we have the ability to hinder it, just by choosing to encourage them or not to encourage them.

Realize the power of encouragement and start using it as a daily practice!

One of the greatest assets we have as "Believers" are friends that will build us up and help us to be all that God desires for us to be. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.**

**But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.**

Through our daily encouragement we help others achieve what they could never achieve on their own!

***"There is no more noble occupation in the world than to assist another human being - to help some one succeed." Alan Loy McGinnis***

## **Mutual Encouragement Fuel**

Amid debate and disagreement, over acceptable food verses unacceptable food, words of wisdom are spoken by the Apostle Paul. **Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.**

- One of the most effective ways to bring peace and build up one another is through encouragement.
- You fuel my lamp with encouragement and I will fill your lamp with the fuel of encouragement, and together we will continue to shine bright for Jesus!

## We All Have Something to Give

In Romans chapter one, Paul is expressing His great desire to visit the church at Rome. He had a two-fold purpose for this visit. First, he wanted to impart a spiritual gift to the church and secondly, he wanted to give and receive encouragement.

**Romans 1:8-12** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. (In verse 9-10 Paul assures them that he has been praying for them.)

**11** I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—

**12** that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

Even though Rome's faith was known and being proclaimed worldwide (vs. 8), Paul knew that He still had something to give to the church.

- A. What he had to give would help the church be fully established. Strong in the Lord.
- B. The church in Rome needed to be encouraged by Paul and Paul knew and understood that he needed to be encouraged by the church also.

Understand, as Paul did, that God has given each of us something to impart to the church.

- We should never feel that our encouragement or gifts are not needed.
- Never feel that we are above receiving the ministry and encouragement of others.

### Ongoing Encouragement Fuel

To encourage, edify, and build one another up should be an ongoing process.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Paul assumes we are already encouraging people and urges us to continue. Are you doing it? Are you encouraging others?

If not, why not? Surely it is within your power to do so.

*"We should seize every opportunity to give encouragement. Encouragement is oxygen to the soul."  
George M. Adams*

### Meeting Together to Fuel One Another With Encouragement

Hebrews chapter ten really gets to the heart of the matter as it reveals that encouragement is one of the main reasons for coming together as a church.

**Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, (the best way to do that is in a group setting)

**25** not 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. (The return of Jesus.)

When is Jesus coming back? I have no idea. But... I do know that today is closer than yesterday, and I do feel like if we take a good look around us, we can see the Day approaching. Therefore, we are not to give up meeting together, but we are to come together and encourage one another.

Consider it. Consider how to spur one another on toward love and good deeds (good works).

- **Hi Ho Silver!** Some boast of their ability to be a Christian and not go to church, the "Lone Ranger Mentality." The problem is the Lone Rangers are hurting themselves by not allowing themselves to receive edification and encouragement. Not to mention the fact that they have a responsibility to other believers to stimulate them to love and good deeds which they are not doing.

A Simple Truth: I have a responsibility to encourage you and you have a responsibility to encourage me. Here in is the strength of fellowship.

- **Battle Relief!** I like to think of our church services as War Relief. After faithfully ministering the gospel of Jesus, seeing needs and meeting needs as the Lord enables, I should drag into church war

weary. Tired, yet full of battle stories of victory to share to strengthen my fellow soldiers. As we praise and worship our Lord and receive instruction from the Word of God, I begin to gain new hope and courage to go out and faithfully serve again! I am encouraged as I hear from others all that God is doing in their lives and realize that His hand of deliverance has truly been with us all. Leaving, I hit the doors, entering the mission field, refreshed and ready for battle!

This is the reason we assemble. If I decide not to meet with you or you decide not to meet with me, we will both suffer from the lack of encouragement that we could have received.

**Next Step: I am going to make being in church a priority so I can receive the fuel of encouragement and I can encourage others!**

### **Fueling Each Other's Light With Encouragement is a Daily Practice**

**Hebrews 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.**

- I wonder how many times someone has slowly slipped away into sin when a word of encouragement might have made the difference and turned them back to righteousness?
- I wonder how many times we see a fellow believer in the marketplace and choose to look the other way rather than wave or better still approach them to offer a few kind words of encouragement?
- I wonder if your family and close friends know you as a person of encouragement. Do your words often turn to criticism and tearing down rather than encouragement and building up? "Sticks and Stones may break my bones, but words hurt more!"
- I wonder when you are with a group of friends if your conversation leads to talking about the Lord. Do you encourage one another in the Lord, or do you talk about everything else but Jesus and never remember your exhortation to daily encourage others?
- I wonder if 'daily' really does mean 'every day', and if it does- have you encouraged any one today?

As a church we are called to encourage, comfort, exhort, and build up one another. We see that the Word of God places a high priority on the building up of one another. We see the importance of developing and allowing the Lord to use us in the Ministry of Encouragement.

Next week we will explore three different ways to encourage others. 1) We can encourage others with our words, 2) we can encourage others with the Word of God, and 3) we can be an encouragement to others in the way that we live our lives.

**A Next Step Challenge: This week I challenge you to fuel four different people with encouragement.**

- 1) **Your Family!**
- 2) **A friend. Someone you are already close to or spend time with.**
- 3) **A person who is a member of Believers Church but doesn't attend on a regular basis. Sort of in and out.**
- 4) **A new person. Someone you don't know that well. New to the church or new to you.**

If you will commit to doing this with me this week, I'm sure that we will have some exciting stories to tell, the results of encouragement, the next time we get together!

Let's fuel the light with encouragement!