

Jesus said **Matthew 5:16 ...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.** And like this lantern needs fuel to keep shining bright, we need fuel as well to keep shining bright. **The fuel that keeps you and I shining bright for Jesus is the fuel of encouragement!**

Last week we discovered the importance of ongoing, daily encouragement and today we will learn how to encourage others. 1) Encouraging others with Spoken Words. 2) Encouraging others with the Word of God. 3) Encouraging others with The Way We Live Our Lives.

### Spoken Words

***“Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you.” -William Arthur Ward.***

#### 1. We fuel the light with words that are spoken from the heart.

- I emphasize from the heart and also prompted by the Holy Spirit, because a phony or superficial spoken word can do more harm than good.
- Flattery or a cliché’ will be obvious to the hearers and mean little to them. The best that you could hope for is that one would be encouraged by your attempt, by the fact that you were concerned enough to say anything at all.

**Ecclesiastes 10:12 Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious...**

#### 2. We fuel the light with words that are spoken in a timely manner.

**Proverbs 25:11 “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”(NKJ)**

Words spoken in the right circumstances! Even a good word spoken at the wrong time will be little to no encouragement. **EXAMPLE ?**

#### 3. Fueling the light with encouragement is something that we all can do.

It doesn’t take a degree or special training. So, let’s get to it!

Examples of spoken words of encouragement may be as simple as this:

- *“I just want to let you know that I’ve been thinking about you lately and I’m rejoicing in what I see God doing in your life.”*
- *“I just wanted to let you know that you are doing a great job.”*
- *“I’m standing with you and praying for you. Let me know if there is anything I can do for you.”*

A WARNING: It is so easy to flippantly tell someone, “I’ll be praying for you.” But if you tell someone that you will pray, make sure that you really do! It’s easy to say that you will and then forget.

It’s convicting for someone to warmly thank you for your prayers when you haven’t lifted any up.

#### Two suggestions about praying for others:

- Pray Immediately**. Agree to continue to pray, but pray with the person immediately when they come to you with the prayer request. Don’t put off for tomorrow what you can do Today.
- Ask for Updates**. This will remind you to keep praying, your prayers will be more accurate, and the one who requested prayer will be greatly encouraged that you really do care.

#### 4. Fuel the light with encouragement by putting your words into written notes, letters, and cards. Written notes capture the words of encouragement and can be read again and again.

**EXAMPLE:** Of letter, card, email that encouraged you

What about social media? Are these tools to tear down or to build up?

## 5. Fuel the light to unbelievers with words of encouragement.

**Colossians 4:5-6** speaks of the importance of our words to unbelievers.

**5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.**

**6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.**

Every encounter with the unchurched or unbeliever is very important!

- These are the people who God loves, even in their sinful state, and our words may determine if there will be future encounters- and if those encounters will be fruitful and productive.
- Salt is a preservative and our speech seasoned with salt (Grace) will not spoil or corrupt what the Holy Spirit is doing in the seeker's life.
- Ephesians 4:29-30 shows how we can actually grieve the work of the Holy Spirit  
**Ephesians 4:29-30 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. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...**

## Who Can You Fuel With Encouragement Today?

If you look around, I'm sure you will find many people who need your words of encouragement.

When was the last time you told someone that they were doing a good job and that you appreciate them?

- What about your children's teacher in Promisedland or BC Kids Teams, Guest Services Team, Praise and Worship Team?
- What about your employer, employees, parents, children, and (yes) even your own spouse?

***"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." -Mother Teresa***

## Encouraging With the Word of God

This to me is often the most refreshing encouragement that is given. All scripture is God breathed and brings life and refreshing. Encouragement from the Word comes in many forms.

**Preaching and Teaching** the Word to build up the Body of Christ.

**Singing** the Word of God. Sing songs that have God's Word in them.

**Eph 5:19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs...**

Learning scripture songs really helps you get the Word deep down in your heart. Singing the Word will also encourage the hearer as well as the singer.

**Prophecy** is also intended for encouragement. **1 Corinthians 14:3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. (Firm Foundations Plug.)**

**Sharing Scriptures** with those who have specific needs or those who need a boost is a great way to encourage others as the Word of God speaks right to their need and is not corrupted with personal opinions. God's Word is not subject to our thoughts or feelings, but it reveals how God thinks and feels.

**Scriptural Helps** such as the Bible Promise Book.

- If someone is feeling defeated or rundown. **Philippians 4:13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.**
- If they are struggling with finances, **Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.**
- Sickness, **3 John 1:2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.**
- Guilt, **Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,**

As in the past, our present, and in the future the Word of God will always continue to encourage the followers of Christ.

## Encouraging Others With the Way We Live Our Lives

**“Go out today and preach the gospel...and if you must, use words.” -St. Francis of Assisi**

The third way to encourage others is with the way we live our own lives and our faithfulness to God.

People are looking for truth and ‘the real thing’.

- They are looking for a Jesus that is real and a Jesus that can make a difference in their life.
- They are looking for people who have truly experienced a life change!
- Like it or not, **our life as a Christian seems to be an open book for all to read**. It has been said that we may be **the only Bible a lost person may read**. Our actions will be, or should be, a direct reflection of the Word of God.

**Your Encouraging Presence** When Paul finally makes it to Rome he is a prisoner, but he received encouragement when the believers came out to meet him.

**Acts 28:15-16 The brothers and sisters there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these people Paul thanked God and was encouraged.**

When helping others through tragedy or a death in their family, maybe trouble with the law or family problems, you wonder what word could I possibly say that would bring comfort in this hurting situation?

- Just your presence is enough to bring comfort and they will sense being loved by you as a friend.

### Hero or Zero?

- We know people who, by their lives and great faith, have encouraged us in a deeper walk with the Lord. Even if we have only watched them from a distance.
  - On the other hand, there have been Christians along the way that, because of their lack of faith or inconsistent lifestyles, have been **nothing but a discouragement to us**.
- There are people who light up a room, bringing joy to everyone. You are glad to see them and hate to see them go.
  - But there are people who throw shade, full of negative words, criticism, and complaining.
  - You hate to see those people coming and don’t want to spend a lot of time with them.

**Which type of person are you?** Your life will be an encouragement to others or a discouragement.

### Living an Authentic Lifestyle. Who is it?

- Who sold their land and laid the money at the feet of the Apostles?
- Who presented Saul to the Apostles and stood up for him?
- Who does the Bible refer to as “...a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith?”
- Who discipled Saul in the evangelist ministry?
- Who was John Marks’ cousin and mentor?
- Who accompanied Saul on his first missionary journey?
- Who was a prophet in the church of Antioch?
- Who did the people of Lystra call Zeus?
- Who worked many miracles and wonders among the Gentiles?
- Who was renamed “Son of Encouragement?”

**Acts 4:36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”).**

**Next Step: Today I will make it my purpose to be an encouragement to others, asking the Holy Spirit to help me fuel the light in others with encouragement.**

I need your encouragement and you need my encouragement. **Romans 1:12 When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.**