

# ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement propels people into Christian service and missionary endeavours.

*Galatians 2:7-9 (nlt) They saw that God had given me the responsibility of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the responsibility of preaching to the Jews. 8: For the same God who worked through Peter as the apostle to the Jews also worked through me as the apostle to the Gentiles. 9: In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews.*

The **commendation** and **endorsement** given to Paul and Barnabas by the apostles had **encouraged** and **empowered** them to continue reaching the Gentiles with the Gospel.

**In affect the Apostles were saying;**

- *We **believe** in what you are doing.*
- ***Continue** on with what you have been doing amongst the gentiles.*
- *We agree with your **message**, your **methods** and your **mission**.*

This is the meaning of being given “*the right hand of fellowship*” (*Galatians 2:9*)

## **When anyone encourages another in their Christian service, they...**

- **Inspire** and **motivate** them to continue **going forth** and staying engaged in what they are already doing for the Lord and
- **Encourage** and **empower** those who are considering of offering themselves to engage in some form of Christian service.

Encouragement **validates** a person’s **ministry service** and gives a sense of **identification** with their vision and purposes.

Encouragement generates a sense of **security** from the knowledge that someone is genuinely interested in what a person is doing for God.

**Encouragement** is a **powerful stimulus** to all those who are called and actively engaged in a specific kind of ministry.

## **Joshua was commanded to be encouraged**

*Deuteronomy 1:38 (net) However, Joshua son of Nun, your assistant, will go. Encourage him, because he will enable Israel to inherit the land.*

*Deuteronomy 3:28 (net) Commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, because he will lead these people over and will enable them to inherit the land you will see.*

## **King Josiah encouraged his priests**

*2 Chronicles 35:2 (esv) He appointed the priests to their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the Lord.*

## **Encouragement is ALWAYS NEEDED.**

### **The NEED for encouragement**

- *There is always a need for this element to be **present** and **practised** more often.*

### **The GIVING of encouragement**

- *Must be **articulated** in such a way that **it is understood** - it needs to be spoken, written and somehow expressed.*

### **The PURPOSE of encouragement**

- *Is to stir up, to stimulate, to provoke a person to continue on and not to give up.*

### **The RECOGNITION of encouragement**

- To be **seen** to be a supportive factor and not as interfering; intruding or seeking control.

## The **ACCEPTANCE** of encouragement

- *It must be **received**. It is important that it be skilfully presented or offered in a manner in which **it will be received**.*
- *Not everyone will readily accept encouragement especially if a person feels they are not worthy of it because of a poor self-image or low self-esteem.*

## The **GENEROSITY** of encouragement

- *It reflects the liberality (generosity) of the heart of those who give encouragement.*
- *It also reflects the relevance and importance of such empowerment.*
- *Generosity empowers.*

## The **NATURE** of encouragement is to...

- ***Lift up** - not pull down.*
- ***Praise** - not condemn or to demean.*
- ***Speak well of**, to eulogize.*
- ***Commend**, applaud.*
- ***Acknowledge**, to notice, pay attention to.*
- ***Speak sincerely**, with genuine integrity, not flattery.*

## The TRADESMEN encouraging one another

- ***Empowering** and spurring them on in their given work*

*Isaiah 41:6-7 (net) They **HELP** one another; one says to the other, 'Be strong!' 7: The craftsman encourages the metalsmith, the one who wields the hammer encourages the one who pounds on the anvil. He approves the quality of the welding, and nails it down so it won't fall over.*

- *The craftsman **encourages** the metalsmith.*
- *The one with the hammer **encourages** the one who pounds on the anvil*
- *One **commends / approves - speaks well of** the other for a good job done.*
- *All of them work together towards making the work done **a lasting one** - that cannot be easily moved or fall over.*

**Let us empower others through our giving of genuine encouragement.**