

# *The Blessing of Encouragement*

## *Deuteronomy 1:38*



# Encourage One Another

- **Philippians 2:1-4** - So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

# Encouragement is Crucial to Edify and Nurture Others

- **Deuteronomy 1:38** - 38 Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall enter. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.
- **Deuteronomy 3:28** - 28 But charge Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land that you shall see.

# Encouragement is Crucial to Edify and Nurture Others

- Part of Leadership training is filling the “encouragement tank” of future leaders...
- **Isaiah 41:7** -7 The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith, and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, “It is good”; and they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be moved.
- **2 Chronicles 30:22** - 22 And Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good skill in the service of the Lord. So they ate the food of the festival for seven days, sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to the Lord, the God of their fathers.

# Encouragement is Crucial to Edify and Nurture Others

- **2 Chronicles 32:6-7** - 6 And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, 7 “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him.
- **Encouragement acknowledges the fears that people have as real, and emboldens them despite those fears.**

# Encouragement in the New Testament

- **1 Thessalonians 5:11-14** - 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 12 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

# Encouragement Starts at Home

- **1 Timothy 5:8** - 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

# Ways to Encourage Others

1. We encourage people by using pleasant words without barbs:
  - **Ephesians 4:29** - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

# Ways to Encourage Others

2. We encourage people by recognizing what God has done through them:

- **Galatians 2:7-9(a)** - 7 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised 8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), 9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me...

# Ways to Encourage Others

3. We encourage people with gratitude for how they have blessed us:
  - **2 Thessalonians 1:3** - 3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

# Ways to Encourage Others

4. We encourage people by believing in them:
  - **Acts 15:36-39** - 36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” 37 Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. 38 But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus...
  - **2 Timothy 4:11** - 11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

# Ways to Encourage Others

5. We encourage people by speaking well of them to others:
  - **2 Corinthians 9:2** - 2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them.

# Ways to Encourage Others

6. We encourage people by not discouraging them:

- **Proverbs 16:21** - The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning. (NKJV)

# Ways to Encourage Others

7. We encourage people by listening to them, praying for them, and taking their concerns seriously:
  - **Proverbs 25:20** - Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.