

Encouragers



Excel
in
Everything



Purpose of Booklets

These are **Short Starter** Studies on **Sensitive** Subjects that **Stir & Stimulate** you toward **Biblical, Practical** Information that show that **Jesus** has **Great Answers** to some of life's **Hardest Questions**.

At www.FamilyBibleStudies.TIPS & the Family Bible Study App each booklet is a free download along with a short podcast explaining each booklet.

The website and App also has:

***“One Terrific Tip to make
Family Bible Studies
Everyone’s FAVORITE time of the week!”***

The website and App also give lists of different **Categories** for the booklets as well as ways to use the booklets in:

1. Bringing **Friends** to **Christ**
2. As a Resource for **Pastor’s Sermons**
3. **Small Group** Bible studies in a **Church**
4. As a **Resource** for Christian **Counselors**
5. Bible studies with **Friends** or **Co-workers**
6. For your own **Personal Growth & Bible** Study
7. Christian **Business Owners** to serve their **Customers** or **Employees**

What if I Don’t Agree with What I Read?

There is always a good chance that I am wrong or that I have poorly communicated. I always encourage each person to research on your own. It may be that your research helps me and others to find God’s heart more clearly.

We all seek His truth by the two Bible measures of:

1. what is **clear** and **consistent** in **God’s Word** and
2. what bears the **Fruit** of **Jesus** in the lives of those who follow that application.

In heaven, all of God’s purposes in God’s Word will be clear and our actions will be aligned with God’s Word. I constantly ask myself, what will we **act** like and **believe** when we are in **heaven**. This is my goal in these booklets.

*“Thy kingdom come; thy **will** be **done** on **earth** as it is in **heaven**”*

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The Big Secret

This **Secret** is that...
 when you **live** to Encourage Everyone
 so that **others** might **see Jesus** in you,
EVERY area of your life **Excels!**

1. You have great **Victory** in guiding your **EMOTIONS!**
2. Every **RELATIONSHIP** Improves!
3. You have much **LESS STRESS** in your life.
4. **TRIALS** are **Shorter, Easier** & become **Opportunities**.
5. You have **LESS Illness** and a **HEALTHIER Body**.
6. You become much more **PRODUCTIVE & CREATIVE**.
7. You **HEAR** the **HOLY SPIRIT Constantly!**
8. The **OLDER** you become the **SWEETER** your life becomes.

Opposite of an Encourager

If you study those who battle **Anxiety, Depression, Oppressive Thoughts,** and **Demonic Attacks,** you will almost never find an **Encourager** in the group.

The Requirement for Demonic Deliverance!

I have ministered demonic deliverance to a lot of people over many decades. Demons are **pests** that find their power through **lies**.

I never minister demonic deliverance until someone has done book studies on deliverance as well as studied this booklet on Encouragers.

It does no good to kick out a pest/demon if the person has not repented and broken this core lie.

People who do **NOT** live to encourage everyone have missed the **SINGLE PURPOSE** of their life and the **key** to **full restoration**.

Notice how II Cor. 13:11 connects Encouraging to Full Restoration.

II Cor. 13:11a Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice!
 Strive for **FULL RESTORATION,**
Encourage one another

Chap. 2 Emotions Obey

Spirit Rule vs. Flesh Rule!

Encouragers understand a foundational “*Kingdom of God*” truth.

When I live to give encouragement to everyone, I am operating in the **HIGHEST levels** of the **Holy Spirit!**

When I live to give encouragement to everyone my **Emotions Quickly Obey** the **Spirit of God.**

My emotions **RISE** into realms of **Love, Joy & Peace!**



The Flesh is NEVER Satisfied!



Those who are **NOT** Encouragers are looking to their **OWN** needs first!

They are like the sad situation of greyhound dogs chasing a wooden rabbit at the dog races.

- The rabbit is **NOT Real.**
- The dogs **Never Catch** the rabbit.

The very deepest root & clearest definition of sin is “*Self-Absorption*”!

The Bible is very clear that this overriding obsession with **SELF** is the very definition of the “**Sin**” that nailed Jesus to the cross.

*Isaiah 53:6 We all like sheep have gone astray.
Each of us has turned to HIS OWN WAY (Self)
And the Lord has Laid on Him (Jesus) the Iniquity (Sin) of us all.*

Self-Absorption/Sin is Seen Hundreds of Times each day.

In **HUNDREDS** of **human interactions** every day, the person who is **NOT** seeking to encourage others makes many **micro - decisions.**

Each time they see another person and they have to decide:

Should I put my Best Effort into

Encouraging YOU

OR

into getting **MY Desires** met?

Their choosing of the sin option of “**ME First**” forms a strong pattern in their lives.

“I Want” rules my life!

“I Want” Attention! “I Want” Pleasure! “I Want” Power!

When “I Want” rules **ME** that makes **YOU** nothing more than a **TOOL** to accomplish what “I Want”

Since you have **NO OTHER VALUE** to me, **WHY** would I **Bother** Encouraging you?

“*How can I Encourage You?*”
is the ultimate
“*Christ – Focus*”.

There are **HUNDREDS** of **verses** that say that being a Christian means that we **live every moment** to bring **others** to Christ. These verses command us to **SERVE** others so that they **Might See Jesus In Us**.

When bringing others to Christ is our **LIFE PURPOSE**, we recognize that this question:

“*How Can I Encourage You?*”

is the **Doorway** to **EVERYTHING** that the Holy Spirit wants to do in that moment.

This guiding question **opens** the **door** to ALL ministry opportunities.

Here are some of those verses.



II Cor. 5:15 And HE died for all that those who live **SHOULD NOT live** for **THEMSELVES** but **for HIM** who Died for them.

Luke 14:33 Those of you who do **NOT Give Up EVERYTHING** you **HAVE** can **NOT** be **My Disciples**.

Mt. 7:21 - **Not everyone** who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **ONLY he** who does the **will** of **My Father** who is in heaven will enter

Lk. 7:21-Why do you **call** Me '**Lord, Lord,**' & do **NOT** do what I say?

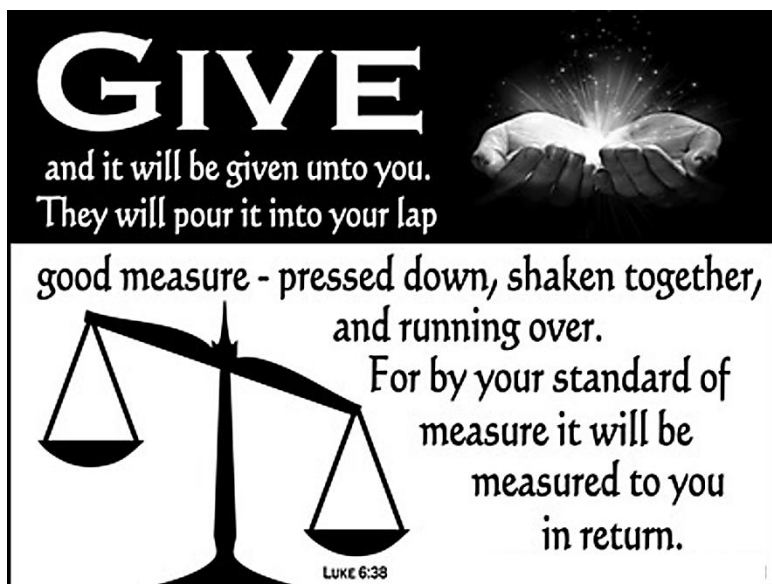
I Cor. 9:19 - Though I am free and belong to no one, I have **made myself** a **slave** to **everyone**, to **win as many** as possible.

The More you Give – the MORE Jesus Gives to You!

Emotions are so **EASY** to **redirect!**

When we **LIVE** to **ENCOURAGE** others, Luke 6:38 guarantees us that the **More** we give to others, the **More** the Lord Jesus pours **HIS emotions** into us.

There is **NO JOY GREATER** than bringing **Joy** to someone **ELSE**.



The phrase “*Good Measure, Shaken Down & Running Over*” is a common idiom that is a strong expression of **GENEROSITY**.

Jesus assures us that we will **NEVER Out-Give** God.

When Beth and I Struggle Emotionally

5 decades of pastoring provides tens of thousands of opportunities for emotional weariness. Whenever we are **struggling emotionally**, we **IMMEDIATELY LOOK** to find others to encourage.

It is like an **antibiotic** to **infection**. The effect is powerful and immediate. The Joy of Jesus fills our hearts. It is the reason we still love serving others in ministry.

On the next page, I tell “*My Elevator Story*” which is when I first learned the power of encouragement!

My Elevator Story

In February 1978, I had just finished a six week internship at the Washington office of Senator Herman Talmadge, who was the long-serving U.S. senator from GA. To my surprise, they offered me a full time job after I finished my internship.

In this job, I would work in the office full time and operate an elevator in the senate office building another 24 hours a week – 3 days a week on 8 hour shifts.

All of the senate office elevators had a personal operator.

The times on these elevators were **awkward silences** for everyone. The first few days, I suffered through 8 hours of those awkward silences, delivering busy senate staffers to their requested floor. It felt like the **longest 8 hours** of my life.

After a couple of days, I went to prayer, asking Jesus how he wanted to use me in this elevator job. I had only been a Christian for 7 months and this whole Christian thing was still very new to me. When I asked Jesus how he wanted to use me in this elevator. I got the very clear impression that Jesus wanted me to **greet** each person as though I was **greeting my best friend** whom I had **not seen** in a year.

I began to greet each person with great **enthusiasm** as they entered my elevator. I would look them in the eye the entire ride, find something to **compliment** them and **ask** kind **questions** to get to know them. I would ask their name, where they worked, how long they had been in DC, what they did specifically, how much they liked their work, what was the best part of their week etc.

It quickly moved from cautious responses to warm friendships. Within a few weeks, I knew almost everyone by name and was able to ask specifics about their day each time I saw them.

Within a month, I had multiple people tell me that they bypassed other elevators so they could ride on my elevator.

I wore a Holy Spirit dove on my collar and within two months had multiple people asking me about the dove. I was able to share with them that I loved Jesus and this dove reminded me that Jesus was with me all the time.

Within 2 more months, I was able to bring multiple people to church with me and help them draw closer to Jesus.

I **LOVED** that job! That is where I **discovered** the effect of **Encouragement** on my emotions.

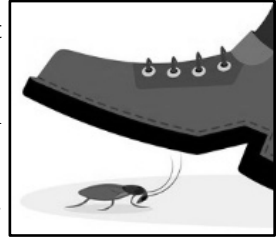
The Two Seconds that CHANGE Lives!

My Greeting Declares How Much I VALUE You!

ALL of us instinctively know that how you greet someone is what you **REALLY FEEL** about them.

When your greeting is a **Begrudging Grunt** with no eye contact, you are clearly communicating that:

- You are **Less** to me than a **Bug** that I step on.
- You are **NOT WORTH 2 seconds** of effort to me.



That **relational deficit** always eventually bites you. When tension, misunderstandings or stress arrive, I **Already Know** how **You Feel** about me.

I will **MATCH** your **Cruelty**.

When the time comes to:

- **Believe** the **Best** or
- **Believe** the **Worst** about you.

I will **Believe** the **Worst** about you since **You** do **NOT Value** me.

Why is my Life so Hard?

These foolish people live very confused lives.

They constantly complain about poor treatment, lack of promotions, family strife and irritating interactions.

Because they are not willing to give 1-2 seconds of effort to the people in their lives, the deficit always comes due.

The Story of Sarah

Sarah worked in a high-stress, fast-paced office where people rarely made eye contact, preferring to communicate solely through email or instant messages. She felt isolated and, like many others, was considering looking for a new job.

Determined to make a change, Sarah decided to do one thing differently.

For a **month**, she made it a point to **smile** and give a **warm "Good Morning!"** to **every** person she passed, regardless of whether they were in her department or if they reacted warmly in return.

The first few days, many people were taken aback. Some barely mumbled a response.

By week two, the mood in her immediate area lifted. People began to stop, look up, and smile back. The "cold" cubicle area started feeling like a community.

- As they **responded**, Sarah found herself being more **confident** and **enthusiastic** in her greetings.
- She began to **look** for **kind** words of **praise** or **encouragement** to give to each person.

By the third week, others started following Sarah's example and the change in atmosphere became even more dramatic.

A senior manager from another department, who usually kept her door closed, started leaving it open. She later told Sarah that her cheerful mornings reminded her to be more approachable.

Because Sarah was now viewed as a positive, approachable team player, she was included in a high-profile project she had previously been overlooked for.

Sarah was **promoted** to become the go-to person for cross-departmental collaboration, gained confidence, and saw her professional opportunities expand simply because she dared to encourage others.

Sarah's story has been repeated many times
in both work and home environments.

These blessed, successful people all recognize
that our greeting is the **LOUDEST** message
of how we **REALLY FEEL** about each person.

4 Growth Factors in an Encouraging Greeting!

1. A Smile and Eye Contact!

Even a stranger in the grocery store feels valued when we give a smile and eye contact.

2. A Word of Praise or Appreciation!

- “I love your **shoes!**”
- “You have a **great smile!**”
- “You sure are a **hard worker!**”
- “You are doing a **great job!**”

1 Thess. 5:11 - “So
Encourage each other &
Build Each Other Up,
just as you
are already doing.”

Even with strangers, the Lord will open doors to give praise or appreciation. Even MORE so, when you greet family & friends, there are always opportunities to give praise or appreciation.

3. Enthusiasm!

The word “*Enthusiasm*” literally means to

“Cause someone to be FILLED with God”.

Enthusiasm is **cheerfulness** with **energy**! Synonyms for enthusiasm are *passion, ardor, zeal, fervor, warmth, and eagerness*.

We all remember the person who enters the room with volume, cheer and energy.

I have talked with many quiet, low key people who find it hard to enter a room with energy and volume.

Those who **paid** the **hard price** to **CHANGE** usually did so for their **CHILDREN**. Those parents decided that their **need** of their children **exceeded** their **own discomfort** at changing.

That is called LOVE!

2 Cor. 8:17 For Titus not only welcomed our appeal,
but he is coming to you with **MUCH ENTHUSIASM**
and on his own initiative.

4. **Listening to Them AND to the Holy Spirit!**

The Bible says that key to hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit is to constantly ask the question:

“How Can I Encourage You?”

*I Cor. 14:3 But the one who **prophesies** speaks to people for their **strengthening, encouraging and comfort.***

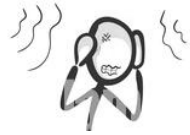
- **Every single** person I have ever met who is **strong in hearing** the voice of the Holy Spirit and prophesying, constantly asks the Lord the question about each person they meet:

“How Can I Encourage You?”

They want to encourage everyone.



- **Every single** person I have ever met who is frustrated and feels **UNABLE** to **hear** the voice of the Holy Spirit wants to hear the Holy Spirit’s voice for **THEMSELF!** Their self-centered focus blocks their ability to hear the Holy Spirit.



As we grow in Jesus’ love, our desire to encourage each person grows stronger. We find ourselves listening to what people say and wanting to hear their hearts.

The more we listen to others, the more we hear the Holy Spirit giving us words to encourage them.

Please **notice** the **three** words that I Cor. 14:3 uses to describe the purpose of all prophecy.

“Strengthening”, “Encouraging” and “Comfort”

*“Strengthening” and “Comfort” are **synonyms** for “Encouraging”.*

Basically the **Bible** says **THREE** times in one verse that the **KEY** to **hearing the** voice of the Holy Spirit is to want to **Encourage** others.

When you seek to Encourage Everyone you meet, you will **hear** the **gentle voice** of the Holy Spirit **MANY** times each day.



Five Fast Final Thoughts!

1. Health

Those who have great physical health are generally people who bring **Energy** and **Take Initiative** in their **OWN** lives.

Because Encouragers constantly **Take Initiative** to bring **Energy** into **OTHER PEOPLE'S** lives, the Lord Jesus gives that same gift back to Encouragers.

2. Creativity

Creativity is the art of finding ways to **Meet Needs!**

Because Encouragers live **every day**, seeking to Meet Needs in **OTHERS**, they are constantly growing in the skill of empathy.

The more we listen to the hearts of others and seek to encourage others, the more the Lord Jesus blesses us with creative ways to help others.

3. Old Age – The Test of the Value of our Soul!

When we are old, we are **seen solely** for **who we are**.

We **no longer** hold positions of **authority, power** or **influence**.

Do our family and friends still **want** to be **around** us?

That will be determined by how much we live to encourage others.

4. In 5 words, you Know Boaz

God's word is so strong on this subject of greeting with enthusiasm and affirmation.

After five short words you feel strongly
that you **know Boaz** and
you **LIKE** him.

*Ruth 2:4 - Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and
Greeted the harvesters,
"The **LORD** be with you!"
"The **LORD** bless you!" they answered.*

Everyone can hear the volume. We can all see the smiles on Boaz's face and on his workers who greet him.

This Bible command to maximize these 1-2 seconds is so important that it is repeated many times in scripture.

*Rom. 16:16, I Cor. 16:20, II Cor. 13:12, 1 Thess. 5:26, 1 Pt. 5:14
GREET one another with a **Holy Kiss!***

In our culture, we no longer have two men greeting each other with a double kiss on both cheeks. However, the principle of making your **GREETING** a **clear message** of how you **VALUE** this person is still forceful, Biblical and transformational.

In Romans 16, Paul **personally greets 29** different people or groups and gives **each one** a **cheerful affirmation** in 13 verses.

5. Permanent Demonic Deliverance!

For over 40 years, I have led many people into freedom from Demonic harassment. I see very permanent results.

- Demons **COME** at us through **many** open doors such a drugs, rage, sexual immorality and occult practices.
- Demons **LEAVE** through **one** main door- **Repentance & Faith!**

When someone's repentance produces a deep determination to encourage everyone to bring others to Jesus, this may be the **deepest level** of repentance for any person. That is why I require each person seeking deliverance to first study this subject.

We also have 50+ booklet studies
that are currently or soon available.

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