

Father's Day
"Encouragement"
June 21, 2015

People are starving for affirmation and encouragement.
And we are in a position to offer that to them.

"Anxiety in a person's heart weighs him down, but an encouraging word brings him joy."
Proverbs 12:25 (NET)

Why don't we use the power of encouragement more often?

- It's hard work.
- It could make us seem weak.
- It could make others soft.

Levels of Encouragement:

- Level 1 Encourager: Recognizes something good in people.

"The believers who had fled from Jerusalem during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the Good News, but only to Jews. However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. The power of the Lord was upon them, and large numbers of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord. When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw this proof of God's favor, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord."
Acts 11:19-23 (NLT)

One word of encouragement when things are tough
is worth more than an hour of praise during times of success.

- Level 2 Encourager: Takes the time\effort to point out something good in others.

"When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They thought he was only pretending to be a believer! Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus. Barnabas also told them what the Lord had said to Saul and how he boldly preached in the name of Jesus in Damascus. Then the apostles accepted Saul, and after that he was constantly with them in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord."
Acts 9:26-28 (NLT)

- Level 3 Encourager: Helps others reach their potential, even when it costs something.

“Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon..., Lucius..., Manaen... and Saul. One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 13:1-4 (NLT)

“On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue for the services. After the usual readings from the books of Moses and the prophets, those in charge of the service sent them this message: “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, come and give it.” So Paul stood, lifted his hand to quiet them, and started speaking.”

Acts 13:14-16 (NLT)

“As Paul and Barnabas left the synagogue that day...” (vs.42)

“Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas...” (vs.43)

“Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly...” (vs.46)

“Don't withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act.”

Proverbs 3:27 (NIV)