

# The Power of Encouragement

*"It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it. You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue." James 3:5-7 (The Message)*

## 4 Ways to Develop the Power of Encouragement

### 1) Count the cost of encouragement

*There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. Acts 4:34-37*

### 2) Search for Potential in people

Words that communicate disapproval

*Animal, buffoon, butthead, bumbler, bozo, bum, blonde, brat, blockhead, bonehead, boob, klutz, clown, clod, chump, chucklehead, dolt, dummy, dufus, dork, dweeb, dingleberry, dumbbell, fool, dunderhead, dunce, dim wit, feeb, fat head, freak, goofball, goon, geek, geezer, girly man, hooligan, hairbrained, idiot, imbecile, jerk, jackass, kook, lout, loon, moron, melvin, mamma's boy, nincompoop, ninny, numskull, oaf, old foggy, old crone, propellor head, poo-poo head, pervert, punk, priss, queer, spaz, stupe, stupid, space cadet, simpleton, sucker, sap, square, son of a motherless goat, twit, twerp, ugly, vermin, wiseacre, wise guy, wimp, weasel, wuss, zombie, zero.*

*One of the highest duties is the duty of encouragement. It is easy to laugh at men's ideals. It is easy to pour cold water on their enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a man on his feet. Blessed is the man who speaks such a word.*

*William Barclay*

*When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. Acts 9:26-28*

*A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind. Mark 14:51*

*When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. Acts 12:25*

*Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. Acts 13:13*

### **3) Be Willing to Give Second Chances**

Acts 15:36-40

*Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.*

*They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left. Acts 15:36-40*

#### **4) Be Willing To Sacrifice Yourself**

*My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) Colossians 4:10*

*Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my co-workers. Philemon 1:23-24*

*Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. 2 Timothy 4:11*

#### **Practicing the Power of Encouragement**

**1) Put encouragement into words**

**2) Put encouragement into writing**