

Encourage

parakaleo (par-ak-al-eh'-o); to call near, i.e. invite, invoke (by imploration, giving advice or consolation): (beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort (-ation), intreat, pray.)

- **To encourage also means too: Urge, comfort, Motivate, remind...**
- **Encouraging based on self and others is WRONG, it MUST be based on God**

Encouraging one-another is necessary to protect us from being misled by sin - Heb 3:12-13 - 12 **SEE TO IT**, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, **SO THAT** none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

We are commanded to meet together to encourage each other - Heb 10:25 - Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The main source of our encouragement is God

How God encourages us - 2 Thess 2:16-17 - 16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

God encourages those really in need - Ps 10:17-18 - 17 You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, 18 defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.

God also encourages us in discipline - Heb 12:4-6 - 4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten **that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:** "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

When we praise God HE encourages us - Ps 138:2-3 - 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. 3 When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted.

The encouragement we receive from God should lead to our unity and selflessness - Phil 2:1-4 - **IF YOU HAVE** any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 **DO NOTHING** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

When we encourage we are to just be instruments used by God because encouragement comes from God - Rom 15:5-6 - 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Major ingredients of encouragement

The foundation of our encouragement must be our faith - Rom 1:11-12 - 11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— 12 that is, that **you and I may be mutually encouraged BY EACH OTHER'S FAITH.**

Encouragement must be done with two major things - 2 Tim 4:2-3 - **Preach the Word;** be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

What should encouragement provide?

One of the things we are to encourage one-another with is the Rapture to provide HOPE - 1 Thess 4:13-18 - 13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Encourage to stay on track with God - Acts 11:22-24 - 22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Encouraging will prepare those for undesirable things - Acts 14:21-22 - 21 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

When Christians go through trials we are to encourage IN THEIR FAITH for perseverance - 1 Thess 3:2-5 - 2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, 3 so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. 4 In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. 5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

Stronger and mature Christians are responsible for encouraging the weak to help them mature - Rom 15:1-4 - We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Encouragement is needed at times even for very basic things - Acts 27:33-38 - 33 Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food — you haven't eaten anything. 34 Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." 35 After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. 36 They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. 37 Altogether there were 276 of us on board. 38 When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

If not careful our wrong actions could encourage others to do wrong - 1 Cor 8:7-11 - 7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ESV

Be careful, "the evil" use encouragement for the wrong purpose - Ps 64:1-6 - Hear me, O God, as I voice my complaint; protect my life from the threat of the enemy. 2 Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, from that noisy crowd of evildoers. 3 They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim their words like deadly arrows. 4 They shoot from ambush at the innocent man; they shoot at him suddenly, without fear. 5 They encourage each other in evil plans, they talk about hiding their snares; they say, "Who will see them?" 6 They plot injustice and say, "We have devised a perfect plan!" Surely the mind and heart of man are cunning.

Some actions that display encouragement

Some will have the Spiritual gift of encouragement - Rom 12:4-8 - 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Ministers must firmly hold to the WORD in order to encourage by the WORD - Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, SO THAT he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

The purpose of prophesy is to strengthen and encourage the church –

1 Cor 14:3-5 - 3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.

1 Cor 14:31-33 - 31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. 32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

The main characteristic to parenting is encouraging in the Lord - 1 Thess 2:11-12 - 11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

Comforting - paramutheomai (par-am-oo-theh'-om-ahee); to relate near, i.e. (by implication) encourage, console:

Urging - marturomai (mar-too'-rom-ahee); to be adduced as a witness, i.e. (figuratively) to obtest (in affirmation or exhortation): (take to record, testify.)

We are encouraged by other's actions not just what we say 2 Cor 7:12-16 - 12 So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. 13 By all this we are encouraged. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. 14 I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. 15 And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. 16 I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.

When we go through trials it encourages others - Phil 1:12-14 - 12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 **Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.**

Main purpose of our overall ministry is to encourage - Col 2:1-3 - I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, SO THAT they may have the full riches of complete understanding, IN ORDER THAT they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

So lets encourage one-another in order to avoid God's wrath - 1 Thess 5:9-11 - 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 **Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.**