



Encourage One Another
Selected Scriptures
#5 in a series on the *One Another* Statements
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One example of a real encourager.

1. He gave to the needs of other believers. (Acts 4:32-37)
2. He risked in reaching out to and defending other believers. (Acts 9:26-30; 11:19-24)
3. He built up others in the truth. (Acts 11:25-26; 15:35)
4. He affirmed and comforted others. (Acts 15:30-34)

Some expectations for all encouragers.

1. Encouraging is inclusive — it includes all of us.
(Romans 12:8; 16:17; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; 7:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11; Hebrews 3:13; 10:25)
2. Encouraging is intense — struggling and interceding.
(Colossians 2:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)
3. Encouraging is sensitive — tender as a father. (1 Thessalonians 2:11)
4. Encouraging is commitment — faithful living.
(Acts 11:23; 1 Thessalonians 3:2,7; 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9; Jude 1:3)
5. Encouraging is two-ways — giving and receiving.
(John 14:26; 15:26; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; 2:7-8; 13:11; Ephesians 6:22; 1 Thessalonians 3:7; 5:14)
6. Encouraging is purposeful — to lift and build up.
(Acts 15:32; Romans 12:1; 16:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:2; 5:11)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. We are to encourage one another. List some of the ideas that are in the New Testament word *encourage* which we noted yesterday. Review the example of Joseph, or Barnabas (Son of Encouragement), who was a real encourager. Do you share the aspects of encouragement we see in him? If not, why? How can his example help you become a son or daughter of encouragement?

Tuesday. The over 100 New Testament uses of the word sometimes translated as *encourage* reveal God's expectations for us as encouragers of one another. Encouraging is inclusive—it includes all of us. You may not have the gift of encouragement, but you are asked to, and God will enable you to, encourage others. Encouraging also is intense—struggling and interceding. Paul continuously struggled at and prayed for believers being encouraged (see the references on the outline). Do you have this intense effort?

Wednesday. Encouraging is sensitive—tender as a father (1 Thessalonians 2:11). It is also something that is done through commitment—faithful living (1 Thessalonians 3:7). A tender heart directing thoughts, words and actions, and a faithful life *will* encourage others. Is your heart tender to *all* believers? Do others see you being faithful to God? If so, and as it is so, they *will be* encouraged!

Thursday. Encouragement is connected—to God and His truth. The new Testament clearly ties true encouragement to God Himself and His truth in the Bible. Sharing God's truth, teaching it and standing against falsehood will encourage others. Encouraging is two-ways—giving and receiving. Review the reference on this that show we receive encouragement from God and others and are to give it to others. Does what you have read square with your experience? Encouraging also is purposeful—to lift and build up. Thank God for where you see this taking place in you and others. Where you don't see it, or as much of it as we should, think of ways this can be changed.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at *building up one another*. Read Matthew 20:17-28 and Galatians 5:13 as you prepare for our time together.