

INFLUENCE: The Power of Encouragement
Pastor Colleen Rouse
October 7-8, 2017

Encourage: to put courage into

Hebrews 10:25 NLT

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Hebrews 3:12-13 NCV

So brothers and sisters, be careful that none of you has an evil, unbelieving heart that will turn you away from the living God. But encourage each other every day while it is "today." Help each other so none of you will become hardened because sin has tricked you.

Proverbs 25:11 AMP

Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken at the right time.

How to Become a Person of Authentic Encouragement:

1. Realize that our human nature will always default to focus on the NEGATIVE rather than the POSITIVE.

Ephesians 4:31-32 NLT

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

2. Challenge yourself to pray SPECIFICALLY AND OFTEN for the Lord to make you an INTENTIONAL, CONSISTENT VOICE of encouragement.

Isaiah 35:3-4 AMP

Encourage the exhausted, and make staggering knees firm. Say to

those with an anxious and panic-stricken heart, “Be strong, fear not!”

Proverbs 15:4 AMP

A soothing tongue [speaking words that build up and encourage] is a tree of life, but a perversive tongue [speaking words that overwhelm and depress] crushes the spirit.

3. Channel the power of your influence to build up rather than to tear down.

Ephesians 4:29 NLT

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Ephesians 4:29 GNT

Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you.

1 Samuel 30:6 KJV

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.

Declaration:

As the day of your return is drawing near, Lord, we will not neglect to encourage one another. Rather, we will make it our focus. It is time for us to get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, we commit to be kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving one another just as You have forgiven us. We choose to speak and post words that build others up as opposed to tearing them down. Let us not be found guilty of crushing or wounding the spirit of another person. Let what we say become a tree of life regarding our families, our neighbors, our leaders and even our enemies. In our darkest moments, we will also remember who You are, and — like David — say, “Bring me the

Ephod,” as a declaration of the power of your great name!