



*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**, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials.*

1 Thessalonians 3:2-3

*May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, **encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.***

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

### God is Seeking to Give You Encouragement

While our enemy is active in attempting to discouraging us, **God is at work to encourage us.** While the devil is trying to drag us down, God is working to lift us up and working **to encourage us to keep up the good fight.**

The way God gives encouragement is through **His Word**, through **His Spirit**, through **His people** and through **His angels.**

### Encouraging Others - The Gift That Can Change a Life

**To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the whole world.** We all need to be encouraged and pass it on.

### Encouragement is a Spiritual Gift

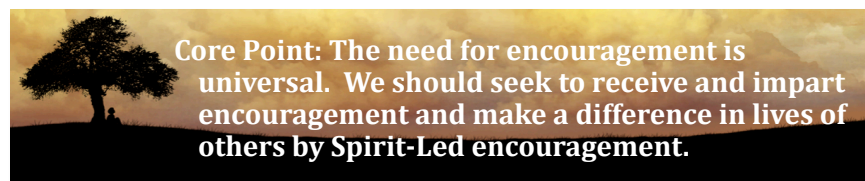
*Anyone who has the gift of serving should serve. Anyone who has the gift of teaching should teach. **Whoever has the gift of encouraging others should encourage.*** Romans 12:7 (NCV)

The Greek, the word "encourage" means "**to call to one's side**, to comfort, to console, to strengthen." Giving encouragement is the kind of expression that helps someone want to be a better Christian, even when life is rough... **To encourage is to inspire another with courage; literally is to put courage in.**

### Learn to Encourage Yourself in The Lord

*...but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.* 1 Sam. 30:6

*Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? **Hope in God**, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.* Psalms 42:5



**David knew that the encouragement he needed could only come from the Lord.**

So David chose encouragement, not only to be encouraged, for there was no one around him who could, or would, do that for him, but to encourage himself. **The most important thing to notice here, though, is that David did not encourage himself in himself. Rather, the Scripture says that he encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**

*Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.* Psalm 62:8

We all have moments that we need to \_\_\_\_\_ the power of God's supernatural encouragement in our lives, often it is up to us.

We all find ourselves at times when we seem to face our battles alone. **How we respond is the \_\_\_\_\_ to our breakthrough** as we learn the value of encouraging ourselves in God. **This can be your greatest moment!**

### The question is, do we know how to encourage ourselves in the Lord when we feel all alone and on our own?

The Hebrew word for "encourage" means "**to fasten upon.**" David fastened himself to God, and in God, David found the strength to face whatever lay ahead.

There was nothing about the circumstance that David faced that was encouraging, and if he had limited his focus to the present circumstance, he would surely have gone into deep discouragement. **But David encouraged himself in God. How? By \_\_\_\_\_ God.** Psalm 34:3

In the dark night of the soul, God will give you a song of victory that will bring a dawn of faith and encouragement. So, in the dark night of his personal anguish, **David sang a song of praise to the God who can make a way where there is no way.**

Often the deepest discouragement will try to come to rob us of our **biggest victory.** These are the times we have opportunity to display our \_\_\_\_\_, which puts our faith in God.

Encouragement tells you that you have everything going for you and it doesn't matter what you have going against you. **God is on your side**, with the provision for every need and the answer for every problem you may have. That is why Jesus came, and why, like David, **you too can encourage yourself in the LORD your God.**

