

## Merry Mindset: Encouragement

### Community Group Questions

1. Do you feel like you are an encouraging person? Give some examples.
2. Who has been an encouragement to you?
3. What are some Scriptures that you like to go to for encouragement?
4. Do you feel that you encourage others in their walk with the Lord?

Do you like to be encouraged by others? Of course you do, we all like a dose of encouragement every now and then. Sometimes the encouragement of another person can change the course of our lives.

*Edward Steichen, who eventually became one of the world's most renowned photographers, almost gave up on the day he shot his first pictures. At 16, young Steichen bought a camera and took 50 photos. Only one turned out -- a portrait of his sister at the piano. Edward's father thought that was a poor showing. But his mother insisted that the photograph of his sister was so beautiful that it more than compensated for 49 failures. Her encouragement convinced the youngster to stick with his new hobby. He stayed with it for the rest of his life, but it had been a close call.*

The question I have for you is how encouraging are you toward other people? Today we are going to learn about having a Mindset of Encouragement in order for us to become people that encourage others.

Romans 15:1-7 tells us three things a Mindset of Encouragement seeks to do...

## A Mindset of Encouragement...

### -Seeks to build others up. Vrs 1-3

Notice he is challenging the people that are “strong” and in this case he is not talking about physical strength he is talking about spiritual strength. People that can build others up are the people that are built up by the Lord. When God builds us up and empowers us, it is so we can go out and pass that on.

*Warren Weirsbe said “The strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the immature Christians, and while doing this, seek to build them up in the faith”*

As Christians we should not be self-centered and only look out for ourselves and our own feelings and desires, we need to look out for the feelings of others, we can change the way that people feel about themselves by encouraging them.

The mindset we need to have while interacting with other people is a mindset that seeks to build them up. *1<sup>st</sup> Thess 5:11 “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up”*

This really is the mind of Jesus and Paul uses Jesus as an example. How do we encourage and build others up?

-Generosity- The top on the list is giving up resources and time for other people. **Acts 4:36-37** Our church blessed others just this past week...4K to help families for Christmas & NIB

-Thank them for their service *Romans 1:8 “I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world”* Paul was not only thanking God he was telling them Thank You as well. Sometimes in life just a note of thank you is a huge encouragement to other people. A text, a Facebook message, kick it old school and send a card or letter.

-Recognize their efforts- Sometimes people give a great effort but what they tried to do did not work out the way they hoped for. That does not mean they did a bad job and at that time maybe more than any other time in their life they need encouragement. *Galatians 6:9* "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up"

Encourage them to keep up the hard work and not get discouraged.

-Our speech *Eph 4:29* "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear"

Many times we can be an encouragement just by what we talk about or what we do not talk about. If you are gossiping it is not encouraging to those that hear. If you are saying good things about others it is encouraging

Sometimes it is hard to keep a Mindset of Encouragement because we may be the only ones doing the encouragement, we may never get encouragement or we are surrounded by negative, uninspiring people. How do we keep a Mindset of Encouragement?

### **-Seeks encouragement from the Scriptures. Vrs 4**

In order to be an encouragement we have to maintain our Mindset of Encouragement and we do that by going to the Scriptures for encouragement.

It is kind of like charging your phone each day so you can use it for the day, we need to go to God's Word for encouragement so that we recharge our spiritual life and be an encouragement to others

We may know the truths of Scripture but it is always good to be reminded...*2 Peter 1:12* says "Therefore I intend always to remind you

*of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.”*

What type of encouragement does the Scripture give us to live each day?

**Romans 8:31-39**

-God is for us

-God gives graciously to us GOSPEL

-God secures us in our salvation

-God brings us through difficult situations “more than conquerors”

When we focus in on these truths it is a great encouragement to know that no matter what, God is in control and has my back.

Because I have been encouraged by Him, I can be an encouragement to others on behalf of Him...which brings us to our last point...

A Mindset of Encouragement...

**-Seeks to bring glory to Jesus. Vrs 5-7**

When we have a Mindset of Encouragement we desire to live in harmony with other people and genuinely want to be a blessing to them, that brings glory to Jesus.

In 2 Cor 7:5-6 we see Paul is saying that he was encouraged by Titus because he came and comforted him in his time of need. Titus was seeking to bring glory to Jesus by comforting Paul.

As Christians we can as Romans 1:12 states mutually encourage on another by our faith

*Reminds me of a story I read about...An elderly widow, restricted in her activities, was eager to serve Christ. After praying about this, she realized that she could bring blessing to others by playing the piano.*

*The next day she placed this small ad in the Oakland Tribune: "Pianist will play hymns by phone daily for those who are sick and despondent--the service is free." The notice included the number to dial. When people called, she would ask, "What hymn would you like to hear?" Within a few months her playing had brought cheer to several hundred people. Many of them freely poured out their hearts to her, and she was able to help and encourage them.*

Our interactions with other people can be a window into our relationship with Lord. If we do not desire to encourage others there is a problem and I would suggest that something is lacking in our lives and it is probably our relationship with the Lord.

If our relationship with the Lord is not where it needs to be then it will reflect every other relationship we have.

*The Mindset of Encouragement says I want to live in harmony with others so I can bring glory to Jesus and I can accomplish that by building others up and looking for personal encouragement in the Scriptures*