

# Give The Neglected Gift

When was the last time you encourage someone?

**The burning acid of discouragement is much more freely dispensed in today's society than the soothing salve of an encouraging word.**

Mark Twain once said, *"I can live off one good compliment for a week."*

Jesus Christ is the master encourager, He encourages the full potential in people, by clearly communicating that their interests are His interests. For example, we all would like to have a full and accomplished life.

**John 10:10** [Message Bible] "... [Jesus Christ speaking] *came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.*"

*"they"* are those people who allow Jesus Christ to be the shepherd of their lives. [Read the statement in context.]

Jesus encouraged Martha and Mary as they mourned the death of their brother Lazarus. [Read the account in **John 11:17-36**].

**The apostle Paul's letters throb with encouragement, strong words to prod us in our understanding of God's grace.**

**2 Corinthians 6:1-2** [Message Bible] *"Companions as we are in this work with you, we beg you, please don't squander one bit of this marvellous life God has given us. God reminds us, I [God] heard your call in the nick of time, the day you needed me, I was to be helped [by God]. "Don't put it off, don't frustrate God's work by showing up late, throwing a question mark over everything we [God's ministers] are doing."*

Paul is encouraging the Christians in Corinth to not procrastinate in seeking the Creator God, and fulfilling His will to convert them into His created children.

**Colossians 3:21** [NIV] *"Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."*

God's Word, the Christian Bible, encourages us to encourage each other.

**Encouragement glorifies God.**

**Romans 15:5-6** [NIV] *"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Encouraging one another pleases God and fosters unity.

**Encouragement is commanded by God.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** [NIV] *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

**Encouragement helps people to come to maturity as Christians.**

**1 Thessalonians 2:11-12** [NIV] *“For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.”*

Just as a father should encourage his children, so Paul was encouraging the young newly-baptised Christians in the Thessalonican church.

**Hebrews 10:24-25** [NIV] *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. 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.”*

We can only encourage one another effectively by meeting with other Christians as often as we can.

**Encouragement deters people from getting off the narrow path.**

**Hebrews 3:13** [NIV] *“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”*

If Mark Twain could live a week off of one compliment, to encourage each other daily makes us seven times as strong in our resisting the deceitfulness of sin.

Preventive medicine and maintenance is always a good idea, especially in relationships.

**Encouragement needs to be a way of life.**

Whenever we have contact with another human being seek to encourage them in some way.

**All human beings hunger for encouragement.**

If we find it difficult to compliment or encourage others, enjoy their successes or sympathise in their misfortune, we need to take a close look at our personality.

**Philippians 2:1-5** [NIV] *“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, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:”*

This will help us to give encouragement as well as to enjoy receiving it.

**Commit ourselves from now on to become an encourager in every part of our life.**