

BCC Bible Study Notes  
"The Power of Encouragement"  
June 23, 2019

1. *What is encouragement?* Encouragement is the kind of expression that helps someone keep trying to do what \_\_\_\_\_ even when life is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. *Why do we need it?*

- Encouragement keeps us from developing a \_\_\_\_\_ heart. (Hebrews 3:12-13)
  
- Encouragement stimulates the \_\_\_\_\_ that solutions exist for the \_\_\_\_\_ we face today. (1 Thessalonians 3:2-3)
  
- Encouragement enables us to \_\_\_\_\_ what God has called us to do. (Deuteronomy 3:28)
  
- Encouragement helps us \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

3. *How does it work?*

- Words that encourage are prompted by \_\_\_\_\_. (Philemon 1:7)
  
- Words that encourage are directed toward \_\_\_\_\_. (Isaiah 43:1-2a)

One person I will encourage today is \_\_\_\_\_.

**BCC Verse of the Week:** "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

## BBCC Devotional Guide for June 23-29, 2019

**Sunday:** Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and Hebrews 10:25. George Adams said, “Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.” The Bible reminds us that the ministry of encouragement is the privilege and responsibility of every believer. Encouragement is the kind of expression that helps someone keep trying to do what pleases God even when life is hard. Who do you need to encourage today?

**Monday:** Read Hebrews 3:12-13. One of the benefits of encouragement is that it keeps us from developing a hard heart. People develop hard hearts because the world is a hard place. We have an “enemy” who wants to deceive us into believing that God is unconcerned about our struggles and unable to intervene. Satan wants us to believe that our significance is based on our performance and the approval of people rather than on God’s unconditional love. What “lies” are discouraging you today?

**Tuesday:** Read Romans 15:4 and 1Thessalonians 3:2-3. Encouragement stimulates the hope that solutions exist for the problems we face today. As Romans 15:4 says, the stories in the Bible were written to give us encouragement and endurance. The Scriptures remind us that God is in control and that He cares about every detail of our lives. God has given us His Word so that we might be encouraged and He wants us to use His Word to encourage others. Who can you encourage with God’s truth today?

**Wednesday:** Read Deuteronomy 3:28. Encouragement enables us to accomplish what God has called us to do. God knew that Joshua would need encouragement in order to lead the people of Israel. He would face obstacles. At times he would need God’s clear guidance, at other times he would need God’s provision and protection. Whatever God’s calling on your life may be, you can rely on Him to provide what you need to fulfill that calling.

**Thursday:** Read Philemon 1:7. The biblical motivation for reaching out to others with encouragement is love. Words that encourage are prompted by love, but love can be “risky business”. We may hold back from loving involvement in people’s lives because of the risk of rejection, the risk of not knowing what to say, or the risk of losing the relationship. In order to be an instrument of God’s blessing in another’s life we have to take the risk. The rewards are worth it.

**Friday:** Read Isaiah 43:1-3. Words that encourage are directed toward fear. In these verses, God expresses his love to His people and reminds them of the reasons they should not be afraid. What do you fear? Rejection by other people? Loneliness? Financial loss? Your kids being harmed or making bad choices? God seeks to encourage us by directing His words to alleviate our fears. As you seek to encourage others, you need to understand their anxieties and fears too. Speak words that reassure people of God’s promise to give us wisdom, strength and unfailing love.

**Saturday:** Read 2 Thessalonians 2:14-17. Encouragement is the impetus for change as we pursue Christ-like character. The key to encouragement is to find the kind of expression through words and deeds that help someone want to be a better “Christ follower”. God wants His church to be a place where people receive and give encouragement. Pray that

BBCB will be a place where people are deeply encouraged to pursue a life-changing relationship with Christ.

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- Encouragement enables us to accomplish what God has called us to do. (Deuteronomy 3:28)
- Encouragement helps us change. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

**3. How does it work?**

- Words that encourage are prompted by love. (Philemon 1:7)
- Words that encourage are directed toward fear. (Isaiah 43:1-2a)

One person I will encourage today is \_\_\_\_\_.

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