

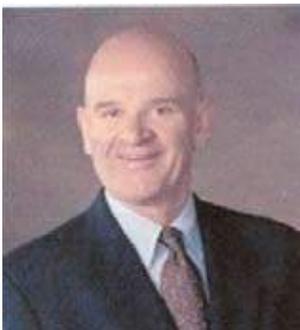
The Role of Encouragement in Leadership

The Role of Encouragement in Leadership is a four-part series describing the function of encouragement in the role of the Christian business leader. In his informative and delightfully humorous style, Walt Wiley looks at the life of Barnabus --“the encourager” -- to provide practical ways to encourage those around us to “spur them on” to love and good works. The series was filmed at the 2001 FCCI International Conference in Maui, Hawaii, USA.

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*Note due to video session lengths of Chapters 2-4, the streaming videos are formatted with optional discussion breaks. Some groups may desire to treat each video segment as a separate meeting.

Mr. Walt Wiley has spent his adult life talking. He speaks and/or teaches at conventions, conferences, churches, retreats, schools, banquets, locker rooms, whether to small groups or large groups. Walt is a native of the Philadelphia area and is a graduate of Asbury College and Northeastern Bible College. He has also done extensive graduate work at the International School of Theology in San Bernadino, California. Walt taught and coached at Northeastern Bible College for 14 years and also served for 15 years on the staff of Walk Thru the Bible Ministries.



Walt and Patti Wiley reside in Charlotte, North Carolina. They have been married for over 50 years and have two grown sons, Bart and Brett.

In pursuit of Christ's eternal objectives, we equip and encourage Christian business leaders to operate their businesses and conduct their personal lives according to Biblical principles.



The Role of Encouragement in Leadership

THE ROLE OF ENCOURAGEMENT IN LEADERSHIP

Hebrews 10:24 Acts 4:34

OVERVIEW: While leadership in our society is often described as a position or a place, it is NOT. Godly leadership is an attitude. Godly leadership is a sense of responsibility to make a difference in someone's life - because of where you are.

Theme Verse:

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24

The word "consider" in this text means "watching or observing" one another. It means that you are wrapped up in another's life because you have a responsibility in that person's life. What is that responsibility? It is to:

- inspire them
- spur them on
- motivate them
- hearten them
- cheer them up
- encourage them

"Courage" comes from a Latin word for "heart".

The challenge is to get your eyes off yourself.

There is nothing that anyone needs more in life than encouragement.

As a boss or company owner, you are the person who is in the best position to encourage someone in your company.

In the book Encouraging the Heart thousands of employees were asked the question, "Do you need encouragement to do a good job?" Only 40% responded "Yes". When the question was rephrased, "Would encouragement help you do a better job?", 98% responded "Yes".

The question is this:

“How do you encourage someone else?”

Every time the people were around Joseph, they felt encouraged. So, they nicknamed him Barnabus – which means “son of encouragement”.

THE FOUNDATION OF ENCOURAGEMENT

An *encourager* always puts other people ahead of himself.



CONVERSELY:

- *Self-centered people* offer little encouragement to other people.
- *Empire builders* use people rather than encourage them.
- *People wrapped up in what they do* seldom see the needs of other people around them.
- *People enamored by who they are* look for others to encourage them.

Therefore, they don't encourage.

“Let no one seek his own but each one the other's well being”

I Corinthians 10:24

“The primary function of the leader is to give hope.”

James Gardner

Hope is Encouraging

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PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. What do you believe is your primary role as CEO or owner of your business? _____

2. How important do you consider the role of "encourager" in your position? _____

3. If you believe that the role of "encourager" belongs to someone else in your organization, who performs that function and why? _____

4. What methods have you used to encourage others:

Your spouse _____

Your employees _____

Your children _____

Others _____

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MEETING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

SESSION TWO

Acts 4:32-37 Galatians 1:4
Ephesians 5:25 Galatians 2:20
James 1:17 I Corinthians 4:7 John 3:16

OVERVIEW: Sharing with others is one of the greatest ways to encourage them. If we truly believe that all things belong to God, it isn't hard to "give" some of what we "have" to others. If it is hard to "transfer wealth" to others, what does it say about what we believe about ownership?

Review:

There is nothing that anyone needs more in life than encouragement.

How did Barnabus encourage others?

ONE of the ways Barnabus encouraged others is shown in Acts 4:36 & 37:

- He took that which was his and he gave it to someone else.
- When you see a need, meet it – for no apparent reason.

Reasons why we don't give:

1. We don't think about giving because we live in a society that says, "It's mine!"
2. The name of the game today is accumulate! It is impossible to accumulate if you are giving things away.
3. We always see others as having more than we have. "I'd give, but I don't have that much".
 - If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are wealthier than 75% of the world.
 - If you have money in the bank and in your wallet and some spare change, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthiest people.



Barnabus understood:

- what God was like and that his role was to be like God.
- that everything he had belonged to God, therefore, it wasn't hard to give.

You need to see things like God sees things.
God is a giver!



The questions are these:

1. What do you have (not, what don't you have)?
2. What will you do with what you have?

Challenge – take something that is precious to you and give it to someone else.

“For God so loved the world, He GAVE His only begotten Son”.....

John 3:16

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PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. Describe a time when you received an unexpected gift. _____

How did it make you feel? _____

What did you do in response to the gift? _____

2. Discuss with your group the amount of "stuff" you possess. Do you believe you have:

a) just enough, b) too much or c) not enough. What changes are you willing to make in response to your selection? _____

3. According to the definitions given, are you among the wealthiest people in the world? _____

Why do you think that is so or not so? _____

4. What could you give away this week that would encourage someone else? _____

Are you willing to do so? _____

Are you willing to be held accountable by your group to do so? _____

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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

SESSION THREE

Acts 4: 36 & 37 Acts 9: 20 Acts 9:27
James 3: 8 & 9 Colossians 4:6 Romans 14:19
Colossians 3: 18 & 9 Romans 12:18 Ephesians 4:29

OVERVIEW: "Men have trained, or can train, every kind of animal or bird that lives and every kind of reptile and fish, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is always ready to pour out its deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our heavenly Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against men who are made like God."(James 3:7-9)

Do you realize that you have the power to encourage or discourage others by what you say?

Review:

There is nothing that anyone needs more in life than encouragement.

"One of the highest duties is the duty of encouragement. It's easy to laugh at men's ideals. It's easy to pour cold water on their enthusiasm. It's easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a man or woman on their feet. Blessed is the man who speaks such a word."

William Barkely



"If you are too busy to care for those who work for you, you're too busy."

Dr. Henry Blackaby

Barnabus encouraged others:

ANOTHER ONE of the ways Barnabus encouraged others is shown in Acts 9:27:

“..... he declared to them”

You can encourage or discourage others by what you SAY.

General Observations about Words:

How can you bring encouragement to someone today?

1. Encouragement ought to be intentional.
2. Encouragement should never be withheld.

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PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. Do you find that you are often "too busy" to take the time to encourage those who work for and with you? _____ What plan might you put into action to spend some time daily encouraging others? _____

2. Is there someone in your life who you have always wished would take time to tell you something encouraging – perhaps a parent, grandparent or spouse? _____

How do you feel about this? _____

3. From whom have you withheld encouragement? _____
What is your reason for doing this? _____

What do you believe would be the result if you began encouraging this person(s)? _____

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THE WAY YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE

SESSION FOUR

Acts 11:19-24 Romans 1:14 I Corinthians 9:19
Romans 12:15-16 Romans 12:18 Matthew 5:43-46
Romans 12:14 | Kings 12:7 I Corinthians 13
Ephesians 5:21 Romans 13:1-4 I Peter 2:13-15

OVERVIEW: The Bible places responsibility on all Christians to encourage one another. Furthermore, as Christians, we have a responsibility to encourage all people – not just other Christians – by the way we conduct our lives as we claim the name of Jesus Christ.

Review:

There is nothing that anyone needs more in life than encouragement.

Behind every face is a drama.....

God designed you to have three things:

- A relationship with Him.
- A relationship with nature.
- A relationship with people.



The classifications of people to whom you have a responsibility:

- People who are “around you”. Romans 1:14; I Corinthians 9:19
- People who are “for you”. Romans 12:15-16; Romans 12:18
- People who are “against you”. Matthew 5:43-46; Romans 12:14
- People who are “under you”. I Kings 12:7; I Corinthians 13;
Ephesians 5:21
- People who are “over you”. Romans 13:1-4; I Peter 2:13-15

How did Barnabus encourage others?

Ways Barnabus encouraged others may be found in Acts 11:19-24:

1. How he gave.
2. What he said.
3. He was a good man.

Another way to encourage others is the way you live your life. This includes:

- how you carry yourself
- your values
- your ambitions
- your goals
- your priorities
- your lifestyle
- how you treat other people
- how you respond to other people



When you profess your faith in Christ – You are an encouragement to fellow Christians.

You encourage others when..... you chose to live and act like a Christian.

- **Character** – moral or ethical characteristic that is attributed to a person as one who can be trusted.
- **Integrity** - a oneness that says “what you are here, you are there”.

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PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. Do you believe that the way you conduct your life has an effect on others? _____

In what ways might it affect your employees, your suppliers, your customers? _____

2. Can you state your business/professional goals and ambitions? _____

If others in your company were asked what your goals and ambitions are, would they match what you say? _____ Why or why not? _____

3. Do you or have you ever distributed a confidential survey within your company to determine how your employees, suppliers and customers feel they are treated by you? _____

If so, what was the result? If not, why not – is there a reason you might not want to know?

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Application & Commitment

James 1:22-25 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does." (NIV)

Series: The Role of Encouragement in Leadership

Date Series Began: _____

Date Series Ended: _____

Participant's Name: _____

One of the Biblical Truths (Principles) I learned from these sessions was: _____

I intend to apply this Truth (Principle) in my business by: _____

With the help of the Holy Spirit, I will begin applying this Truth immediately. I ask and expect my Leadership Group to hold me accountable for this and to check with me periodically to determine if I am doing so. Please ask me: _____

Participant

Date

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