

Encourage: parakaleo from para = side of, alongside, beside + kaleo = call -- means literally to call one alongside, to call someone to oneself, to call for, to summon. Parakaleo can include the idea of giving help or aid but the primary sense in the NT is to urge someone to take some action, especially some ethical course of action. Sometimes the word means to convey the idea of comfort, sometimes of exhortation but always at the root there is the idea of enabling a person to meet some difficult situation with confidence and with gallantry.

Hebrews 10:25 *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**Life Application:** Spiritual fitness calls for \_\_\_\_\_ effort.

This is so well illustrated in nature by the giant sequoia trees of California that tower up to 300 feet. These beautiful giants are hiding their unusually shallow root systems that reach out in all directions to capture the greatest amount of surface moisture. As their roots extend horizontally, the intertwining roots of the adjacent trees weave a network of support which provides stability against violent storms (think "storms of life"). In short, these gentle giants are so constructed by their Creator that they need each other, which explains why you virtually always see them growing assembled together in clusters ("not forsaking their assembling together").

Take aways:

- What do you need to do to become an encourager to others?
- Who around you needs to be encouraged?
- How can God work through your life to transform you into an encourager?
- Let's ask God to help us weigh our words before we speak them.
- Let's ask Him to help us consider the outcome of our decisions before we make them.
- Let's ask Him to help us think about the needs of others before we consider our own wants and needs.

**Series:** None

**Title:** Dis'or En'

**Topic:** Which do you practice?

When he was seven years old, his family was forced out of their home, and he had to work to help support them. When he was nine, his mother died. At 22, he lost his job as a store clerk. He wanted to go to law school but lacked the education. At 23, he went into debt to become a partner in a small store. At 26, his business partner died, leaving him a huge debt that took years to repay.

At 28, after courting a girl for four years, he asked her to marry him. She said no. At 37, on his third try, he was elected to Congress, but two years later, he failed to be reelected. At 41, his four-year-old son died. At 45, he ran for the Senate and lost. At 47, he failed as the vice-presidential candidate. At 49, he again ran for the Senate and lost. At 51, he was elected president of the United States.

**One kind of courage:** \_\_\_\_\_ courage  
Ezra 4:1-2

2 Kings 17:24 *The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sephar-vaim, and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they possessed Samaria and lived in its cities.*

2 Kings 17:41 *"So while these nations feared the Lord, they also served their idols; their children likewise and their grandchildren, as their fathers did, so they do to this day."*  
These "enemies":

The danger of the appeal of these enemies was that their words were not absolute lies. They were partially true. They did worship God and sacrifice to Him. The problem was, they did not worship God alone!

Some of the returned remnant could have accused Zerubbabel and Jeshua of being too hard on these men: "They believe in God, just as we do. Why not make peace with them and let them work together with us?" The answer is, for the same reason that you don't drink water that is only a little bit polluted. It will poison you!

- They rejected the exclusive worship of the Lord alone.
- They had viewed the Lord as the means to a comfortable life not as the divine Sovereign to whom they owed all allegiance.
- They were not satisfied with allowing the worship of the Lord to take place without coloring its details with their own preferences.

Ezra 4:3-5, 24:

6-23...

So, the text in 6-23 is an insert that describes maybe 80-100 years of roadblocks to the Israelites in the future under two different kings. However about 15-16 years after verse 5, the people listened to Godly men and rebuilt the temple. It was long in use by the time of verse 23.

Discouragement is an enemy that is \_\_\_\_\_ in its ability to \_\_\_\_\_ us in our Christian Walk towards victory.

Breakdown of *discouragement*: *Dis*, which is a prefix which means such things as the opposite of, or to deprive of or the exclusion or expelling of, and *courage*.

For someone to discourage, is for someone to deprive you, to exclude you, to make you the \_\_\_\_\_ of someone with courage.

How does discouragement enter into our lives?

Another kind of courage: \_\_\_\_\_ courage

3 examples of encouragement:

To encourage: **Bring** \_\_\_\_\_ to each other.

Acts 4:36 *Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"),* <sup>37</sup> *sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.*

Sometime later in Antioch:

Antioch was a very wealthy and magnificent city. It was a city filled with idolatry, it was a city of heathenism, and it was a city of deep sexual sin.

But the Holy Spirit of God began to move in that city and many Gentiles came to know Christ.

Acts 11:23 *When he (Barnabas) arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.* <sup>24</sup> *He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.*

To encourage: **Break down** \_\_\_\_\_ for others:

Acts 9:26 *When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.* <sup>27</sup> *But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.*

To encourage: \_\_\_\_\_ people who get left out:

Acts 15:36-39 *Sometime later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing."*

<sup>37</sup> *Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,* <sup>38</sup> *but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.* <sup>39</sup> *They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,*

Barnabas didn't focus on Mark's problems, he focused on his potential. That is a big difference. Encouragers see potential where other people see problems. Barnabas believed in Mark so much that he parted company with Paul in order to take John Mark with him.

A command:

Hebrews 3:13: *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*