Encouragement

One of Our Happiest Duties



Barnabas

Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas, (which means the son of encouragement) sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles feet.

Acts 4:36

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement Philemon 7

We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is encouragement, let him encourage.

Romans 12:6,8

The Cheering Section

Are you in the cheering section as you travel on life's way? Friend, if you're not you oughta' be and cheer some folks today. When folks go to a ballgame they don't look all tired and glum For if they did the folks nearby would think they're kinda' dumb.

> The clapping and the hollering may sometimes be quite loud But you can bet those cheerers are a motivated crowd. They want their team to win the game so urge them on a bit. It's hard to think the team would win if fans would simply sit.

It just might be that way in life folks need a little praise To help them stay on top th' heap as they their children raise. The oldsters also need some help and look for words of cheer So let them know you think they're great. These words they need to hear.

Encourage everyone you meet—
your kids, your boss, your spouse
And it may change the way you live
at work or in your house.
It never is too late to start
to join the cheering crew
And you will be amazed and pleased
at what it does for you.

But encourage one another daily Hebrews 8:13



Maybe A Hug

When we meet neighbors on the street or in a grocery store We only see the outer man.

but inside there is more

And they don't really say too much of what they feel within,

They've kinda' learned to hide their thoughts and take life on the chin.

A lot of people cry inside and don't want folks to know

That they are struggling deep within and feeling mighty low.

So we should greet them with a smile and lend a listening ear,

Some folks have things within their heart they'd like someone to hear.

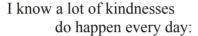
So don't rush off but take the time to treat them like a friend--

You might find out a little hug could start their heart to mend



Your love has given me great joy and encouragement. Phileman 7

Kindness



A father gets his soft ball out to teach his son to play.

A neighbor takes a pot of soup to John who lives alone,

A son who lives far, far away calls Mother on the phone.

The grocery clerk said, 'Howdy, ma'am,' and gave a great big smile,

A friend of mine stopped by today and chatted for awhile.

A little boy, with dog in tow, brought flowers to his Mom,

A pastor called on someone ill, and prayed and read a Psalm.

God touched a heart and gave a song to someone long depressed,

A daughter helps her Mom with work so she can get some rest.

We fail to see these kindnesses, we think they're much too small--But look at all your blessings, folks,

you just can't count them all.

Always be kind to each other and to everyone else. 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Criticism

A lot of folks will criticize what others say and do: I 'spose a little of their words could possibly be true, But seldom does this kind of stuff help others very much, The people who are talked about may need a loving touch. Its better to encourage them and give those folks a lift And tell them things that they do well and not produce a rift. If we feel good about ourselves we'll surely want to find The good there is in other folks and always treat them kind. Its not our place to run them down and make them feel depressed--We need to give encouragement so they can do their best.



Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Arguing

I'm not too much on arguing or having verbal fights,
The folks who do this type of thing may have some restless nights.

They might cook up an ulcer, even get their pressure up

And if they harbor unkind thoughts they'll have an empty cup.

Harsh words when said in anger can cut deep and e'en destroy

A heart already hurting even if a girl or boy.

One easily could get upset and maybe lose a friend

But its not worth the stress one gets to hate folks to the end

It's better far to seal your lips and listen for awhile

Then when the fuss is done and through your heart still has a smile.

The Bible has an answer that I think is pretty neat:

When people get their hackles up keep answers soft and sweet

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

The Old and the Young

I know I'm quite old fashioned for my age can tell you that,
But kids who are much younger never sat where I have sat.
They think it strange that I still think the way that I was taught;
When I was just a little kid my folks taught me a lot.

And though I've learned much more since then
I guess my mind is set
On things I still believe are true and will not soon forget.
No doubt I seem a little strange to young folks of today
Who may not think the way I do or know the things I say.

But someday when they're old and gray with back a little bent
They'll look back on their childhood days and how those years were spent
And they may feel they're out of sync with young folks on the streets
Whose nimble feet can keep in step with different drummer's beats.

But when I think on this a bit and dwell on it a while I realize there've always been some folks quite out of style. As generations come and go there's bound to be some change So folks who've lived a lot of years need not feel they are strange.

But I would guess God thought it good to have both young and old So they could help each other with whatever life would hold. So I'll enjoy the golden years and pass along the truth That God would like to live in them while they are still a youth.

I was young and now am old yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken Psalms 37:25





Brothers

If a bird sits on your shoulder and a brother's at your side No matter what life's handed you, you needn't run and hide For you've a brother who will help and likes you quite a lot And if you need a helping hand he'll help you on the spot.

We all need brothers now and then
when life might go awry

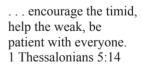
For he's a person we can trust
with laughter or a sigh.

So if you have a brother
you should sing and you should smile

Because you know if life gets tough
he'll go the second mile.

The Blessing Business

Are you in the blessing business Helping those whose life is hard? There are lots of struggling people Whose hearts and minds are scarred. They need a helping hand, my friend, They have their feelings, too, So don't harass the down and out Whatever you may do. If everyone would lend a hand To help a fellow out Folks lives would be much happier And easier, no doubt. Unloving folks can criticize And say a lot of stuff That never should be said at all And make a life more tough. The people who bless other folks Will find they, too, are blest; For its the key to happiness



When one will share his best

The Winning Team

So often Christians smile and say they're on the winning team And that is really quite okay for it is not a dream. If Jesus lives within our heart our lives are truly blest. We feel that we have been set free and find both peace and rest.

But lest we settle in and say that we are number one It could be we should think a bit of what the Lord has done Christ was the friend of sinners. like the woman at the well. It's folks like these He came to save and of salvation tell.

He healed the crippled, raised the dead, and caused the blind to see And people who were bound by sin He really set them free. He came to save the sinners and to give them peace inside, In fact, He loved us all so much that on a cross He died.

So if we feel we have it made
and kinda' fold our hands
We need to know there's lotsa' stuff
the Christian life demands.
The Bible tells us many things
of how the Christian lives
And how he spreads Christ's love around
and how he freely gives.

So if you're on the winning team remember some are not
And lend a hand to hurting folks who need the love you've got.
So serve the Lord with all your heart, it's there that you will find
Your life will be much happier and you'll have peace of mind.



Therefore as God's chosen people... clothe yourself with compassion and kindness Colossians 3:12

Passing Their Way

Are some folks happier today because you passed their way? God likes it when we take the time to brighten someone's day. Too many folks don't take the time to help a fella' out, Somehow they haven't learned quite yet what livin's all about.

The people who are happiest and have a song to sing Are those who live for other folks and happy tidings bring. If you let things that you possess just steal your heart away Folks will not feel much happiness because you passed their way.

So if you'll go about your day and spread your love around You'll find a lot of folks out there who'd love your joyful sound.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:18

Retired

A lot of folks will work for years
and finally retire
And for a while it's kinda' fun
to sit down by the fire,
But from some things that I have heard
it may not be too smart
To be a couch potato
and not exercise the heart.

It seems long life may smile upon
the folks who laugh a lot
And don't spend time in worrying
'bout things that they have not.
And keeping busy saves the day
and makes their life worthwhile
If they will volunteer a bit
and give the world a smile.



And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16