

The Art of Encouragement

“The tongue has the power of life and death.” Proverbs 18:21 (NIV)

“A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything - or destroy it!” James 3:5 (MSG)

“An Anthology of Accidental Assaults upon Our Language” by Richard Lederer

“My son is under his doctor’s care today and should not take PE. Please, execute him.”

“Please, excuse John yesterday’s absence. He was sick and I had him shot.”

“The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve several times before I hit him.”

“I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident.”

“On Sunday, we will take a special offering to help defray the cost of the new carpet. All of those wishing to do something on the carpet please come forward after the service.”

“This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. White to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.”

“Don’t let worry kill you off – let the church help.”

“Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.”

“At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What is Hell?” Come early and listen to our choir practice.”

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23 (NIV)

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

Road Blocks To Being An Encourager

1) The Insecurity Factor.

The key word for insecurity is **intimacy**.

2) The Inability Factor.

The key word for inability is **anger**.

Results of Encouragement

1) Encouragement brings change.

“You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas’ (which, when translated, is Peter).” **John 1:42 (NIV)**

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” **Matthew 16:18 (NIV)**

2) Encouragement brings confidence.

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” **Acts 2:41 (NIV)**

Action Steps

1) Perform an eye surgery.

“Encourage one another daily.” **Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)**

2) Perform a heart surgery.

“For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.”
Matthew 12:34-35 (NLT)