

# The Spiritual Gift of Encouragement

## Definition

The gift of Encouragement is the God-given ability to present words of comfort, consolation, and encouragement so as to strengthen or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

### Gifts in Action

Barnabas, a respected leader of the early church, was nicknamed “son of encouragement.” He traveled with Paul on his first missionary journey. He supported, encouraged, and affirmed Paul when others sought to harm him. When we encourage others, it builds them up to utilize their full potential for ministry.

## Scripture References for Encouragement

- Romans 12:8
- Acts 11:22-24
- Acts 15:30-32

## People With This Gift Like to...

- Comfort others to trust and hope in the promises of God.
- Motivate others to grow in personal and spiritual development.
- Urge others to action by applying biblical truth.

## Characteristics of People With Encouragement

- Positive
- Motivating
- Affirming
- Reassuring
- Supportive
- Trustworthy

## Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Encouragement

- Visiting the sick or elderly
- Counseling
- Hospitality team member
- Prayer ministry

### RECOMMENDED READING:

**Hopelifter — Kathe Wunnenberg**

**You'll Get Through This — Max Lucado**

**A Shelter in the Time of Storm (Free E-Book) | Paul Tripp**

**The Problem of Pain - CS Lewis**