

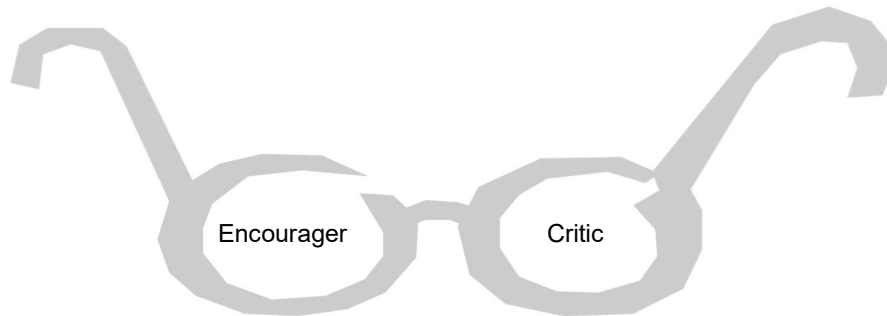
3. Encouragement, the True Prophetic Heart

1. God wants us to be Encouragers

1 Cor 14:3, 4, 5, 12, 26, 31

- Edification
- Exhortation
- Comfort
- *Ephesians 4:29, "Let no _____ proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers."*

2. Are You an Encourager or a Critic?



3. Encouragers see the good in others

They see the best in

- ⇒ Individuals
- ⇒ Society
- ⇒ Churches
- ⇒ Groups

4. Critics look at others and see

- Their _____
- Their _____
- Their _____

5. Encouragers are people that we like to be around

We feel our best when we are with them. We:

- Feel more _____
- _____
- _____ in what we are doing

6. Critics

- Seem cold
- Repel others
- Except other critics

They cause us to feel:

- In _____
- _____
- Uptight
- We make _____

Prov. 10:11 - The mouth of the righteous is a well of life. But violence covers the mouth of the wicked

Prov. 12:18 - There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword. The tongue of the wise promotes health.

7. Encouragers have an ability to say things that lift us up

- They are tactful when they have some bad news.
- When they rebuke you, you feel better for it.

Prov. 10:11, "The mouth of the righteous is a well of life."

Prov. 12:18, "The tongue of the wise promotes health."

8. **Critics**

- Justify themselves
- Are sarcastic
- Make themselves appear bigger when they put others down
- Make compliments feel like backhanders

Prov. 10:11, "But violence covers the mouth of the wicked."

Prov. 12:18, "There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword."

9. **Encouragers bring encouragement out of you.**

Critics have a way of bringing out any _____ that may be there within you, causing you to be _____ also.

10. **Building up one another is a God-given responsibility**

- Bless and do not curse. Rom 12 :14
- Edifying takes faith – 1 Tim 1:4
- Build up another – Rom 14:19
- Do all things for your edifying – 2 Cor 12:19b
- Build up your neighbour - Rom 15:2
- The word builds us up - Acts 20:32
- Prophecy builds us up - 1 Cor 14:3
- Speaking in tongues builds us up - 1 Cor 14:4
- Prophecy builds up the church - 1 Cor 14:4
- Tongues and interpretation build up the church - 1 Cor 14:5
- Love builds up - 1 Cor 8:1
- Seeking another's good, edifies - Rom 15:2
- God's authority builds up - 2 Cor 10:8

When people are down - pick them up.

When they feel like nobody – make them feel like somebody special.

When they feel worthless – make them feel infinitely special.

11. **Barnabas – Biblical Example**

- Barnabas means son of encouragement. Mentioned only 3 times in scripture and each time providing encouragement and support for others.
- He appears to be constantly making people feel good _____
_____ and helping them to believe in themselves.

1. **Barnabas Having Land Sold It Acts 4:36, 37**

He sold his property in order to help the church carry out its mission. He so believed in the church that he was willing to sacrifice everything he had to encourage it. Because he believed in the church he helped the church believe in itself.

2. **When nobody else believed in Paul – Barnabas did**

- When nobody else saw the potential in Paul – Barnabas did.
- Acts 9:1-3, Saul's conversion.
- Some only saw the bad in Saul – Barnabas saw the good (Acts 9:26, 27).
“But Barnabas took him in” – convincing the apostles that Paul was saved.
- Paul may never have become the confident leader he did - without Barnabas.
- God wants to use _____ that way too.

3. **Barnabas Encouraged John Mark to Achieve Greatness**

In Acts 15:36-40 we find him helping a broken, discouraged John Mark out of a negative state:

“Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.’³⁷ Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark.³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.³⁹ Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.”

⇒ Later John Mark wrote Mark's Gospel

4. **Barnabas – A Somebody who Restores Losers**

- Acts 11:24 *“he was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord” NIV*

- God has _____ you to be a son or daughter of encouragement, creating in others the ability to believe in themselves. God wants you to make everyone you meet to feel wonderful, self-assured and precious.
- **What are some Keys to representing the nature of God?**



The Holy Spirit does not want to speak _____,
_____ and _____.

1. God sees our potential

Romans 2:4 “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the _____ of God leads you to repentance?”

God uses Prophecy to speak Hope and POTENTIAL. Sometimes great encouraging words can be spoken over stubborn, independent, or critical church members. This can seem like a false prophecy. God is saying “If you will repent and pursue me this is what I have planned for you”

2. When ministering personal prophecy, we should take great care in dealing with the details of people’s lives.

- Not everything God shows us is necessarily to be shared. It takes more maturity not to share everything than to share it.
- Luke 2:19 “*But Mary kept all these things and pondered on them in her heart.*”
- Eccles 3:17 “*There is a time to keep silent and a time to speak*” (time for every purpose and work).

3. Share only what is seen, not what we interpret it to mean.

When you get prophecy, a vision or dream that God speaks to you, it is important to share only what is seen, not what **we** _____ it to mean.

It is often in trying to _____ that we fall into the trap of prophesying our own doctrines or religious teaching.

95% of wrong prophecies are wrong _____ or immaturity.

The interpretation needs to come from God, not from ourselves.

Key Points

1. Be an encourager
2. Encouragers make people feel better
3. Building up others is our God given responsibility
4. Barnabas was a good example of encouragement
5. When ministering, take great care in dealing with peoples lives

Your 5 Key points

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____