

PART 26: ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

ACTS 20:1-12

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MAIN IDEA

This passage illustrates some of the ways believers can give and receive Christ-exalting, Spirit-empowered encouragement.

I. FIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS

A. Use _____ speech (1 Thess. 1:2-3; Prov. 22:11)

- Don't start complaining as soon as you see your spouse, child, employee, neighbor or someone else.
- Ask about his or her day.
- Give a compliment (See Paul's compliments; Question #4)
- Share insights and victories from your life.

B. Use _____ speech (1 Thess. 1:3; Prov. 12:25)

- Listen to what you say. Be sure you make many more positive comments than negative ones.

- Acknowledge others' abilities and efforts.
- Life is full of problems, and we need to deal with them. But if we aren't careful, all we see are the problems. There are lots of good things we can focus on. Instead of "catching people being bad," catch them being good.
- If someone feels inadequate, remind them that God doesn't expect them to live the Christian life in their own strength.

C. Use _____ speech (Phil. 2:4; Psa. 10:17)

- You can encourage someone simply by listening to them.
- Use active listening

D. Avoid _____ speech (Rom. 2:1; 14:13)

- "You just aren't trying hard enough."
- "Your problem is that bad!"

E. Avoid _____ speech (Prov. 18:2)

- Avoid saying: "Don't worry, everything will be okay."
- Explain why everything will be okay.
- Say something such as, "I know this is a tough time for you, but it won't last. Let me encourage you: God will see you through, and I'm here to help, too."

II. APPLICATION: PLAN TO ENCOURAGE SOMEONE

A. Who (list at least three people who you feel could use some encouragement)?

B. Think about how you will encourage them.

C. Put a target date on your calendar for when you might encourage this person.