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# *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



I know a lot of kindnesses  
do happen every day:  
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.



. . . encourage the timid,  
help the weak, be  
patient with everyone.  
1 Thessalonians 5:14

## *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