

## **BE ENCOURAGED**

(O. Monroe, CBF November 1, 2015)

### **1. Introduction**

#### A. Why Are We Here (Collectively)?

The church exists for multiple reasons..... **can you name some?**

My understanding from scripture

- To serve as ambassadors for God's kingdom
  - 2 Cor. 5:20 - Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- To serve as a "clean room" for the sanctification process
  - Prov. 27:17 – So as iron sharpens iron one man sharpens his friend's character]
- To serve as a haven for believers to be prepared for service (i.e.- to be equipped)
  - Hebrews 13:20-21, 2 Tim 2:21, Eph. 2:10, 1 Thess. 2:1-17)
- That believers might be set free by the teaching of truth through the Word (salvation/making kingdom disciples)
  - 2 Tim 3:16-17, Rom 15:4, Isaiah 40:8, Heb. 4:12
- That we might worship our God together both as an edifier and as a symbol to those I need of salvation and help
  - John 4:23-24, Psalm 95:6, Col. 3:13-17, Luke 4:8, Psalm 95:1-6

B. ASK: the question is begged: **WHY THEY PERSONALLY CAME TODAY** (What got you out of bed?)... (open for comment).

C. As I prepared for today I received several clear messages:

1. Be clear (let us pray/hope this one plays itself out)
2. The Pastor must always
  - a. give instruction in sound doctrine (This means I must know theology and be able to communicate it clearly),
  - b. be able to rebuke those who contradict sound doctrine (This means the pastor must be able to deconstruct false ideas and expose their faulty foundations) – today, in counseling, discipleship
3. **MOST IMPORTANT FOR TODAY: Do not admonish (this is wrong...) encourage the saints, they don't need new teaching.**

I don't want anyone to leave today carrying the same burden the same way as when you came in, I WILL NEED YOUR HELP FOR THIS (more on this in a minute).....

#### **D. The Plan For Today..... →**

### **Cleansing In The Living Water of God's Word**

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### II. First, Let us clarify/deconstruct some **DEFINITIONS**

- **Be** – to exist in the present state of...
- **Encouraged** – en + courage -> "IN COURAGE"  
*en·cour·age* -- in 'kərij/-- verb  
*past tense: **encouraged**; past participle: **encouraged***
  1. *give support, confidence, or hope to (someone).*  
*"we were encouraged by the success of this venture"*
  2. **give support and advice to (someone) so that they will do or continue to do something.**  
*"pupils are encouraged to be creative"*

#### *Origin*

*Middle English (formerly also as incourage ): from French encourager, from en- 'in' + corage 'courage.'*

*{<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1O999-encourage.html>}*

**En- {Word Origin}** 1. a prefix occurring originally in loanwords from French and productive in English on this model, forming verbs with the general sense "to cause (a person or thing) to be in" the place, condition, or state named by the stem; more specifically, "to confine in or place on" (enshrine; enthrone; entomb); **"to cause to be in" (enslave; entrust; enrich; encourage; endear)**; "to restrict" in the manner named by the stem, typically with the additional sense "on all sides, completely" (enwind; encircle; enclose; entwine). This prefix is also attached to verbs in order to make them transitive, or to give them a transitive marker if they are already transitive (enkindle; enliven; enshield; enface).

*{<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/en->}*

**Courage** – (noun) definition: **the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery.**

*{<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/courage?s=t>}*

Summary meaning: stay existing in/of courage (imperative sentence...a command)

**FULL DEFINITION:** The command to encourage is a command to exist in the state of having already possessing the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear

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### III. Why "be encouraged" [to what? from/against what?]

- A. To (examples...again, from scripture):
- Peace (2 Cor. 13:11)
  - Freedom (2 Cor. 3:17, John 8:36, 1 Cor. 6:12, Gal 5:13)
  - Strength (Phil 4:13, )Isaiah 40:29, Psalm 119:28, Eph. 6:10)
  - Wholeness (Psalm 147:3, Isaiah 61:1)
  - Joy (James 1:2, Psalm 47:1, Isaiah 9:3, Eccl 9:7)
  - Contentment (Eph 4:11-12, 1 Tim 6:6-8)
  - Healing (1 Peter 2:24, Psalm 103:2-4)

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**B. From/Against** (not intended to be a comprehensive list...just the little the Holy Spirit told me that I could recall. If yours isn't mentioned....consider it for later):

1. Addiction ("I cannot stop.....") could be addressed or not
  - Sex
  - Drugs
  - Food
2. "What if ...." Fear of:
  - the unknown (..I get caught slipping in weakness)
  - Get caught engaged in sin
  - Others finding out about what you have hidden, and for how long
  - Old sin, moved past, being uncovered and penalized for (consequences)
  - What others think
3. Worry / self-doubt ("am I enough?", "can I...?")
4. Relationships with:
  - Parents (bitterness....aging.....hard needed conversations that they avoid to not have to face their mortality )
  - Children (dis-connected, dis-respected...)
  - Spouses/Marriages (fading love, "missing God", "just plain wrong", "they/we/I changed, now I have to suffer forever with this bad choice", "I hope they just quit" b/w "why don't you just leave?")
5. Single-ness (struggling with: being alone but not wanting to change really, settling, wanting the cake but not actually eating it)
6. Loneliness (with others, but still feeling misunderstood)
7. faith (do I have enough?, is God: real/lying/mad-at-me/punishing or victimizing me for something others did)
8. Patience/waiting (I want it – whatever it is – in my time, not Gods)
9. Employment
10. Finances
11. Your health
  - aging
  - sickness
  - Chronic pain
  - weight
  - Hereditary disease or ailments (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc.)

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### IV. Encourage self

- A. Praise (sing, shout, dance, play and instrument)
- B. Worship (Be willing to humble ourselves before God, surrender every part of our lives to His control, and adore Him for who He is, not just what He has done. Worship is a lifestyle, not just an occasional activity. Jesus said the Father is seeking those who will worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23). Worship is an attitude of the heart. A person can go through the outward motions and not be worshipping (Psalm 51:16-17; Matthew 6:5-6). God sees the heart, and He desires and deserves sincere, heartfelt praise *and* worship.)

In summary, praise is a form of worship, which involves the whole aspect of our awe, reverence, love, and respect for Almighty God.

#### **Know the difference:**

(we did this earlier....do you ONLY do it here?)

*Quiz: Which songs from this morning were which? (name/list songs from earlier)*

- C. You need "ever ready" songs. Find at least one...or make a mixtape...learn the words...rehearse them so they will be in you when you need them)

My examples:

1. Looking for God in non-obvious places (where God HAD me..)

1. Boys To Men - New Edition (NE Heartbreak 1989) <- end of childhood

*So we search for answers to our questions*

*(Looking for a answer)*

*No answers....but we are taught a lesson....every time*

*Through mistakes...we've learned...to gather wisdom*

*Cause life's responsibility falls in our hand*

*Keep on learning*

*Keep on growing*

*Wisdom helps us understand*

*We're maturing*

*Without knowing*

*These are the things that change boys to men*

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2. *13<sup>th</sup> Floor / Growing Old* (Hook/Chorus sung by D. Killings –Outkast "ATLiens" 1996)  
← *training days are over, and a lot of hits have been taken along the way*

*Something's gotta change*

*Sounds of laughter and happiness turn my teardrops to rain*

*Been bearing this burden for too many of my days*

*Looks like breezes of Autumn done finally found my way*

*Like memories of yesterday...*

3. *Liberation* (Outkast, "Aquemini" 1998 – Cee-Lo Green Verse)

← *Trying to get this right, its hard though*

*I'm so tired, it's been so long – Struggling.....*

*Hopelessly standin' in for the day.. (Heeeeeey)*

*Oh, I sacrifice every breath I breathe, to make you believe, I'd  
give my life away*

*Oh lord, I'm so tired, I'm so tired*

*My feet feel like I walked most of the road on my own.....All on  
my own, (heeee- ay-eeee..)*

*We alive but we ain't living, that's why I'm giving until it's gone  
Cause I don't wanna be alone (I don't wanna be alone)*

*I don't wanna be alone.. (Yeah ay eeeee)*

*If anything I can say, to help you find your way*

*Touch your soul, make it whole, the same for you and I..*

*There's not a minute that goes by that I don't believe that you  
die..but I can feel it in the wind*

*The beginning of the end...so people keep your head to the sky  
Shake that load off, shake that load off...(16x)*

### D. The power in the obvious praise/worship (a few examples...listen later):

1. Jesus Saves, Ain't No Need to Worry, Millions, Sinners Prayer  
(I'm a sucker for a good Marvin Winans Song)
2. Ordinary just Won't Do, Will You be Ready (Commissioned too)
3. Thank You (Puffy and Hezekiah Walker, notwithstanding...)
4. In Your Grace (Kirk Franklin ballads pretty much got me through 2000-2010)

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### **E. {Hand out scriptures here.....} Speak the word out loud**

(If I mentioned your struggle in the “encourage from” list earlier, stand up, pick one verse and read it aloud)

### **F. Walking the walk (don't know who this is for specifically...just being obedient)**

1. Know you are called (Know what you are called to: make disciples)
  - a. Know the difference between a random idea and your call
  - b. Know we ALL HAVE ONE

(1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.)

2. - Establish your "you are here" point [strengths/weaknesses]
  - a. Find those whose strengths can cover your weakness,
  - b. Be honest
3. Ask for help from wise council.

SIDEBAR:

STOP NOT GETTING HELP ON THE ASSUMPTION THEY ARE BUSY. Intercede for them; ask can you help take some of the burden....

WE MUST DISCIPLE ONE ANOTHER...ITS NOT AN OPTION

FIND SOMEONE WHO TAKES THAT SERIOUSLY (Check the fruit 1<sup>st</sup>:

...do they exemplify any spiritual gift or call you can see through their lives? If not....)

4. Wait for instructions
5. Walk in faith

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### V. Encourage Others - **CONGREGATION PRAYER REQUESTS**

(Only those who want prayer come forward and let one of us will pray for you...you choose who)

#### A. What we (the prayers) need from you (the congregation)

- Attention
- Trust
- Willingness to surrender “your thing” to God

#### B. INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Hand out cards/pens/pencils
2. Tell them: Write down your biggest struggle on the card,

PUT YOUR NAME AND CONTACT ON IT IF YOU WANT FOLLOWUP

- If you want prayer: hand it to the prayer when you go up
- If you don't want prayer, just put the in the box later , but pray for all of us from your seat
- All cards to be put in a box for continued prayer

Contents of the CARDS ARE 100% Confidential (trust..)

\*Start the music here\*

3. Call forth Pastors (Jay, Art), Mothers (Fern, Ramona, Claudia, Gloria), Elders (D. Gunning), Prayer Council (Angela, Ola, Regina)
4. For each who will pray: Wash hands, anoint with oil, bless/pray for each – after they are blessed they are available for prayer

### VI. **MY CLOSING PRAYER**

1 Timothy 1 [NIV] - 12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.