

Be Positive
Encouragement
2 Corinthians 7:5-7
Pastor Brian

2 Corinthians 7 ⁵ When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. ⁶ But God, who **encourages** those who are discouraged, **encouraged** us by the arrival of Titus. (NLT)

Romans 12 ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us... ⁸ if it is to **encourage**, then give **encouragement**... (NLT)

Why is it so hard to encourage others?

1. Our **SINFUL NATURE**.

Matthew 15 ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. (NIV)

Matthew 12 ³⁵ A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. (NIV)

2. Our **SELFISHNESS** distorts our motives.

Philippians 2 ³ Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. (NET)

How can we live an encouraging life?

1. **ENCOURAGE OTHERS** daily.

Hebrews 3 ¹³ Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. (NIV)

2. **BE CAREFUL** what you say.

James 3 ⁵ In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. (NLT)

Psalms 141 ³ Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips. (NIV)

3. Be **HELPFUL** instead of **HURTFUL**.

Ephesians 4 ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (NIV)

4. Make **LOVING OTHERS** your goal.

***Colossians 2**² My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ... (NIV)*

Action Step: **WRITE A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT.**