

Motivational Gift of Exhortation

Romans 12:8 "He who exhorts, in exhortation"

Exhortation DEFINED: *parakale*

1. to call to one's side, call for, summon.
2. to address, speak to, (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, teaching, etc.
- 2A to admonish, exhort.
3. to encourage and strengthen by consolation, to comfort.

The Greek words for exhorter come from the same root word as paraclete, which is the word used to describe the Holy Spirit. Paraclete is translated: Counselor, comforter, advocate, helper, intercessor, strengthener, standby, or encourager.

An exhorter is not just one who is on the sidelines, but is one who is there with us, encouraging and helping us

Dictionary:

1. to incite by argument or advice : urge strongly
2. to give warnings or advice : make urgent appeals

Description of an exhorter:

The gift of exhortation is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to minister words of consolation, encouragement, comfort, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they feel helped and healed. They motivate others to their best effort, the highest level of being in Christ. Exhorters urge us to our full potential as children of God. Exhorters help others fulfill their destiny!

All scripture is actually an exhortation, admonition or encouragement for the purpose of strengthening and establishing the believer in the faith.

Teaching stimulates the mind; Exhortation stimulates the will and faith

Important Truths & Characteristics of Exhorters:

1. They emphasize God's promises and encourage believers to remain faithful (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

2. They confront, challenge, exhort and encourage those who have gotten off track in their faith or life, helping others overcome sin (Hebrews 3:12-13)

Hebrews 3:12-13 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "*Today*," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Every Christian has the responsibility to encourage, exhort and admonish one another as the opportunities exist

3. One of the qualifications for Deacon/Elder/Pastor (Titus 1:7-9; Titus 2:14-15)

"... exhort and convict those who contradict."

4. Exhorters call God's people to higher levels

1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

5. It is an important aspect of Preaching ministry

Luke 3:18 And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.

6. Help others change their behavior by applying biblical truth; Teaching

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

7. It is an important element of Prophesying:

1 Corinthians 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

8. Pastors are exhorted to operate in it

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

9. They encourage with their words

Acts 15:32 Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.

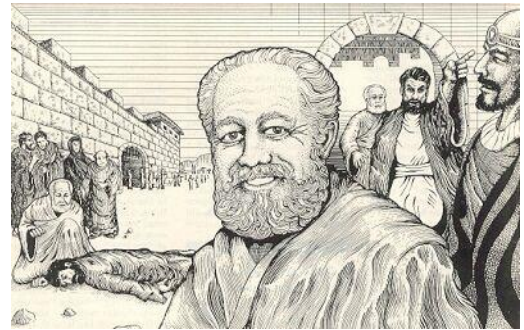


Scriptural example of an exhorter: Barnabus

1. **Son of consolation - Refreshment, prophecy, exhortation) (Acts 4:36)**

2. **An exhorter uses not only words but actions to exhort others (Acts 4:34-37)**

Acts 4:34-37 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, ³⁵ and laid *them* at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. ³⁶ And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷ having land, sold *it*, and brought the money and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.



3. **He has faith in a person when others have given up hope in them (Acts 9:26-28)**

Acts 9:26-28 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.

4. **An exhorter is interested in what it takes for you to grow spiritually (Acts 11:22-24)**

Acts 11:22-25 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. ²³ When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. ²⁴ For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

5. **Complimented Paul's teaching gift (and got him going in ministry) (Acts 11:25-26)**

Acts 11:25-26 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. ²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

6. **He understood that trials and tribulations bring new levels of maturity (Acts 14:21-22)**

Acts 14:21-22 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

7. **Encouraged John Mark not to quit and took him alongside to mentor him. (Acts 15:39)**

Acts 15:39 Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;

Barnabus didn't write any books in the New Testament. He was just the Spirit-led man who stood beside Paul (who wrote 13 books) and Mark (who wrote the first gospel).

Misuses in exercising this gift:

1. Sometimes they can Talk talk talk too much thinking the anointing is in their talking.
2. Have a tendency to over simplify a problem and thus make each problem solvable by a formula basis thus belittling others. Most tend to see problems as difficult and complex, and think they can't be solved by a simple 1, 2, 3 solutions.
3. Can sometimes be overly optimistic, positive or flattering, and avoid being confrontational when it is needed.
4. Should first take time to discern and understand where others are and what they really need.

Proverbs 18:13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

- Give people an opportunity to share their feelings.
 - Make yourself approachable so that people will want to come and tell you their problems.
5. Can rely on personal charisma and gregariousness rather than flowing in the energy and power of the Holy Spirit.
 6. Spending too much time with those who want only temporary relief.
 7. Relying on your own understanding (formulas) and not the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Must remember that what works for one person may not work for another!

Rely on the Holy spirit when you don't understand. Some things remain hidden regardless of how much people share.

8. They feel they have failed God if one does not follow their advice. It is important to know that all that matters is that we are obedient to do what the Lord tells us. The rest is up to Him and them.

Misunderstandings:

1. The urgency to give steps of action may appear as having an over confidence in them.
2. The use of scripture for practical application may appear to be taken out of context.
3. The emphasis on steps of action may appear to disregard the feelings of those being counseled.

A person with this gift is usually:

- Positive "Always has a good word"
- Reassuring
- Motivating
- Supportive
- Challenging
- Trustworthy
- Sensitive
- Optimistic
- People Oriented
- Problem Solver
- Action Oriented
- Practical



Complimentary gifts and ministries:

- Giving
- Intercession

Theme song of the exhorter:
"I like to move it"

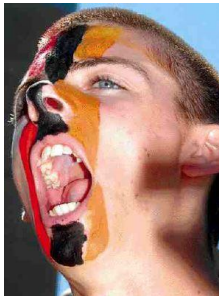
Practical ways to encourage people (Become a son of encouragement):

- Call your friends who are having difficulties and let them know you are praying for them and share bible verses with them.
- Tell someone how much they have blessed you through their ministry or teaching.
- Encourage someone in practical ways (ex. Barnabus sold property).
- Call someone who is in grief and just spend time listening to them.

People with this gift are needed in the church for:

- Church visitation
- Telephone counseling
- Worship leaders
- Prison ministry
- Hospital visitation
- Youth Ministry
- Intercessory prayer
- Body Ministry
- Discipleship

Exhorters are cheerleaders, coaches, and cattle prods in the body of Christ:



Cheerleaders give you the feel of home field advantage



Coaches bring out the talent in other people



Cattle prods are modern ox goads that cause you to "move it, move it".

When I encourage my kids in sports they rise in their performance. It applies to all of life.

Ecclesiastes 12:11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.

- The gift of Exhortation has been called the gift of encouragement
- I once heard it said that everyone should have a Paul, a Barnabas, and a Timothy.
- It should be our goal to be a Barnabas to others.



Conclusion: Exhortation is a critical gift in the church. It is vital for worship. We need exhorters who will come alongside and urge us to keep going, so that individually and corporately we can become all God intends for us to be.