

Facing the Giants In Marriage

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Pastor Ted Bichsel

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Be A Marriage Encourager

Hebrews 3:12 Aggressive Encouragement

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. ¹⁵ As has just been said:

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion.”

- > Examine your heart before God
- > Is He able.. *when you are ready to give up?* IS HE?
 - On the entire marriage
 - On communication
 - On budgeting
 - On parenting
 - On a spiritual vision
 - On hope
- > *WE NEED EACH OTHER* to keep us focused in the challenging times and the times of victory, so we do not let our guard down.
- > *A hurt heart = a hardened heart*
 - Don't be surprised that this happens
 - You can not make someone “get over it”.
- > *ENCOURAGEMENT IS* the heart beat of seeing God's vision for the smallest and greatest things in your relationships.....especially marriage.



Film Clip 1:34:00-1:36:30

Let's Talk About It: In Your Face Encouragement

1. What happens when critical words are spoken at you?
2. Can criticism motivate someone?
3. What did this scene in the game and the death crawl scene have in common?

The Encourager's Encouragement

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers, *since we have confidence* to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² *let us draw near to God with a sincere heart* in full assurance of faith, *having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience* and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.* ²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.* ²⁵ *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

> Confidence

Our relationship with Him empowers us beyond our failures
Our failures can hold us back unless we see His vision

> Draw near

God encourages those who desire to hear His heart
We encourage others out of His strength, and our testimony

> Cleansed

We are able because the old has passed away and the new has come.
Our motives must be as servants and not as deceivers looking out for ourselves.

> Hold on

We are unable in our own strength> especially if we are thinking “too little too late”
This is understood to mean “with your whole heart/soul/mind/strength”

> Consider how we can

Our renewed minds release a direction that we would have never considered.
Our renewed minds allow us to direct His encouragement to our spouse...
even if we don't like them much.....

> Not give up...meeting

Your time as a couple
Your time in the Body of Christ

> His Vision

We are not encouraging for a fleshly “feeling”
We are encouraging towards God's vision and purpose....way beyond our limits.



Game On: How to Encourage:

Five Elements of Blessing/Encouragement (adapted from: The Blessing, Smalley, Trent)

1. Meaningful Touch

Matt 20:34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

2. Spoken Word

Prov 18:21 The power of life and death are in the tongue

3. Expressing High Value

Phil 4:8ff Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest think on such things.....

4. Speaking a Future

Phil 1:3ff I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

5. Active Commitment

Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.