



The School of Encouragement

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. (Eph 4:11–12 NLT-SE)

- **A variety of different “schools” have been created to train and prepare students for different areas of ministry. Here are a few:**

- School of the Prophetic
 - School of Worship
 - School of Evangelism
 - School of Prayer Counseling
 - School of Biblical Studies
 - School of Supernatural Ministry
- All these areas of study help prepare believers to not just agree with, but participate in God's plans to advance His kingdom. So, **what are the main things when it comes to being equipped for the spiritual challenges ahead?**
- **Truth...**A broad, deep, strong foundation in the Word of God, the Bible.
 - Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. (Josh 1:8 NLT-SE)
 - ¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable. (Heb 4:12–13 NLT-SE)
 - ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (2 Tim 3:16–17 NLT-SE)

- **Relationships...**with other believers that are resilient enough to accomplish God's will on earth together and not allow our relationships to fracture when things get tough.
 - ²⁴ ...God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. (1 Cor 12:24–26 NIV)
 - “I don't think God uses card tricks to get our attention. Rather, He gives us hopes and dreams and desires. He gives us tenacity and resilience and courage. He's made us good at some things and horrible at other things. He brings joyful, beautiful, fun people into our lives and a few difficult ones too. Sometimes He changes the trajectory of our plans by taking away what we've comfortably known and letting us fly through valleys that are deeper and narrower than any we've been through before.” ~ Bob Goff in **Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People**
- **Spiritual Growth...**The ability to lift up, support, strengthen, and encourage, not just other believers, but **any person** who who needs help. All these facets of spiritual growth are what the bible refers to as **discipleship**.
 - ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you...” (Matt 28:19–20 NLT-SE)
 - ¹ Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. ² You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. (2 Tim 2:1–2 NLT-SE)

Should the move of God we are all anticipating begin to emerge in the next couple years, what areas of training will be most important for the church to operate in fullness? In a world that is growing darker and darker, with an ever-increasing anti-christian sentiment, where will hope come from?

Who will **inspire** the world to not give up?

Who will **love** well and **teach** others to follow their lead?

Who will **encourage** those who have lost hope?

- Today, I would like to paint a picture of a *new school* that I'm very excited about...

THE THREE RIVERS SCHOOL OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- **Why do we need a School of Encouragement?** What school like this bring to the table?
 - **Encourage:**
 - To **inspire** with courage, spirit, or confidence
 - To **stimulate** by assistance, approval, etc.

- To **promote, advance, or foster**:
 - ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate (stir up, ESV; stimulate, NASB; spur, NIV; provoke, KJV) one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (Heb 10:24–25 NLT-SE)
 - For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. (Jer 29:11 NLT-SE)
 - So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. (1 Th 5:11 NLT-SE)
 - ¹ We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. ² We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. (Rom 15:1–2 NLT-SE)
 - Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. (1 John 3:18 NLT-SE)
- What this course of study will do is teach, train and prepare individuals to **minister encouragement at a very high level**.
- **Who might be interested in attending the School of Encouragement?**
 - The course is designed for people who feel compelled to **“do something” about the hopelessness** in the world today.
 - With this training, the person who already expresses care and compassion towards those in need will not just do things that make people feel good, but **initiating life changing encounters with people inside and outside the church**.
 - This school is for people who are tired of shallow, surface level relationships with the people they care about most. **They are people who have a strong desire to walk in confidence and boldness in who they are in Christ to effect change in the world**. This course will enable you to walk love people with a new courage and determination to see supernatural change.
- **What does the curriculum of the School of Encouragement look like?**
 - **Semester One**: September 10 thru December 14, 2018 (12-weeks with a 1-week break)
 - Identity in Christ
 - The Book of Acts Unpacked
 - The Life and Ministry of Barnabas
 - **Semester Two**: January 21 thru April 26, 2019 (12-weeks with a 1-week break)
 - Dynamics of Spiritual Love
 - Expressions of Compassion in the American Church
 - Communicating the Gospel through Action

- **First Year Outreach:** 10-day Inner City Outreach *inside* United States
- **Semester Three:** September 9 thru December 13, 2019 (12-weeks with a 1-week break)
 - Breathing the Life of the Spirit into Friends and Family Members
 - Inspiring Business Leaders
 - Compassion in the End Times
- **Semester Four:** January 20 thru April 24, 2020 (12-weeks with a 1-week break)
 - Spiritual Disciplines that Feed Encouragement
 - Supernatural Transformation with Words
 - Cooperating with the Holy Spirit in Miracles
- **Second Year Outreach:** 10-day Rural Outreach *outside* the United States
- **What should someone expect to get out of completing the School of Encouragement?**
 - **Confidence** in God's love for people...all people.
 - The **Willingness** to engage people...all people...where they are and help them move forward.
 - The **Boldness** to encourage people...all people...that there is someone to believe in, a reason to have hope in the future, and open the door for them to experience the power of God for freedom, life and love in the days ahead.