

ENCOURAGEMENT

Literal Meaning: To come along side of

Description: The gift of **Encouragement** is the divine enablement to present truth so as to strengthen, comfort, or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

Distinctives:

- Come to the side of those who are discouraged to strengthen and reassure them
- Challenge, comfort, or confront others to trust and hope in the promises of God
- Urge others to action by applying biblical truth
- Motivate others to grow
- Emphasize God's promises and have confidence in his will

Traits:

- Positive
- Motivating
- Challenging
- Affirming
- Reassuring
- Supportive
- Trustworthy

Cautions:

- Can sometimes be overly optimistic, too simplistic, or flattering
- Should first take time to understand where others are and what they really need
- May want to just say "positive" things to others and avoid being confrontational when it's needed

Scripture References: Romans 12:8;
Acts 11:22-24; 15:30-32

1. Do people seek you out for advice and encouragement?
2. Do you enjoy walking with someone through difficulties?
3. Are you attracted to those who are hurting and needy?
4. Are you patient with people?
5. Would you rather speak personally with someone about their problems rather than send them to someone else for help?