

# Creation/Foundation/Motivational Gifts

## Gift of Exhortation

### Romans 12:4-8

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 and Characteristics of Exhorters:

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

**Every Christian has the responsibility to encourage, exhort and admonish one another as 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 the Preaching ministry  
**Luke 3:18 And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.**
6. Helps 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.**  
**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.**

### Scriptural example of an exhorter: Barnabas

1. Son of consolation (Acts 4:36)
2. An exhorter uses not only words but actions to exhort others (Acts 4:34-37)
3. He has faith in a person when others have given up hope in them (Acts 9:26-28)

4. An exhorter is interested in what it takes for you to grow spiritually (Acts 11:22-25)
5. Complimented Paul's teaching gift (and got him going in ministry) (Acts 11:25-27)
6. He understood that trials and tribulations bring new levels of maturity (Acts 14:21-22)
7. Encouraged John (also called Mark) not to quit (Acts 15:39) who ended up writing the book of Mark.

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

### **Misuses in exercising this gift:**

1. Talk talk talk too much
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 solution.
3. Can sometimes be overly optimistic, positive or flattering, and avoid being confrontational when it is needed.
4. Should first take time to 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:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive "Always has a good word"</li> <li>• Reassuring</li> <li>• Motivating</li> <li>• Supportive</li> <li>• Challenging</li> <li>• Trustworthy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitive</li> <li>• Optimistic</li> <li>• People-Oriented</li> <li>• Problem Solver</li> <li>• Action-Oriented</li> <li>• Practical</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

### **Complimentary gifts and ministries:**

- Giving
- Intercession

### **Practical ways to encourage people:**

- 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. Barnabas 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:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church nurture visitation</li> <li>• Telephone counseling</li> <li>• Worship leaders</li> <li>• Prison ministry</li> <li>• Hospital visitation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Ministry</li> <li>• Intercessory prayer</li> <li>• Body Ministry</li> <li>• Discipleship</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

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.