

Inspiration

What does inspire mean?

1. fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative. 2. breathe in (air); inhale. *Oxford Languages Dictionary*

What does encourage mean?

give support, confidence, or hope to (someone) *Oxford Languages Dictionary*

What's the difference?

I can encourage you by giving you confidence and hope but inspiring you takes it a step further and makes you eager and enthusiastic to go for it.

What we need to remember about inspiration

- ❖ The Word of God not only encourages us but inspires us to do God's Will
2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; Jer. 20:9;
- ❖ There are some that are encouraged but haven't been inspired to move but so far – 1 Sam. 30:1-10
 - We must learn to move forward with inspired leaders
- ❖ It's difficult to start a fire when you don't possess any accelerant
Luke 22:31-32; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8
- ❖ Stop looking for inspiration from uninspired folk – Acts 8:18-22; Num. 13:25-14:9; Neh. 2:
 - They can only produce after themselves – Mat. 23:15
 - Be careful of those who seem to encourage by offering to help yet are inspired by the enemy to hinder the work – Ezra 4:1-4

Let's talk about some Biblical examples of those who inspired others:

- ❖ Mordecai – Esther 4:14
- ❖ Caleb – Numbers 13:30
- ❖ Jesus – Heb. 12:1-3

Using what God placed inside of you

- ❖ We all have been given gifts and abilities.
- ❖ The gift and ability can be authentic and still not reach potential
- ❖ Most of our excuses are attempts to justify not using what God gave us
 - It's not what you don't have that's keeping you from achieving or overcoming.
 - It's not activating what you already have –
 - It's not maximizing what you already have –
 - It's not appreciating what you have –
 - Blaming others is not the answer.
- ❖ You must allow God to reveal what He has placed inside of you.
 - You can't fully grasp it without getting to know Him and His
 - Nature – John 4:24; Mal. 3:6
 - Love – John 3:16
 - Purpose – Gen. 1:26; Col. 1:16
 - Power – John 1:1-12

Inspiration and Expiration

- ❖ God does things in order – 1 Cor. 14:40
- ❖ When we leave His order, we enter chaos and destruction – John 14:27; Psa. 1; Jer. 6:8-23; 1 Cor. 14:33
 - Chaotic and torn lives
 - Chaotic and torn families
- ❖ Chaos is accompanied with dryness and a lack of life – Gen. 1:1-2
- ❖ It is God who brings us out of the chaos and darkness – Eph. 5:8; 1 Pet. 2:9
- ❖ Ultimate disorder is trying to make something live outside of God – Acts 17:28
 - Trying to do life - John 15:4-7
 - Trying to do church – Rev. 2: 1-5; 3:1-6

- ❖ We are out of order when we try to put expiration in front of inspiration
 - Inspiration causes us to live
 - Expiration is an indication that we are dead

- ❖ We are out of order trying to build on expired things without the inspiration of God
Heb. 9:11-14, Psa. 119:113-128
 - Dead methods – Prov. 14:12
 - Dead ideas
 - Dead practices
 - Dead religiosity – Col 2:8; James 1:26
 - Dead excuses – Luke 9:60

Inspired In Spite Of

Genesis 6:1-8

- ❖ Inspiration can become destructive if we become disconnected from God
 - We can begin under inspiration and chose devastation – it's based on our choices – Gen. 6:1-2
 - Our choices matter – Mat. 7:13-14; Pro. 3:1-8; Heb. 11:24-25
- ❖ Giants were born because of man's sin – vs. 4
 - Nephilim – fallen ones
 - Sons of God (bane-Elohiym) typically refers to angels – vs. 2, Jude 1:6;
- ➔ We must make sure we don't make poor choices concerning who we connect with – 2 Cor. 6:14; Mat. 23:15
- ❖ That which was originally inspired by God has become exceedingly wicked – vs. 5
 - Their thoughts are no longer His thoughts but continually only evil – Gen. 8:21
- ❖ The Lord repented (nâcham: properly to sigh, that is, breathe strongly; by implication to be sorry Strong's Hebrew and Greek Definitions)
 - His disappointment with man's decisions didn't change His nature
 - He will not abide in sin – 2 Cor. 6:16-18
 - He will not change His Word
 - God grieved by what man thought, said and did – Eph. 4:30
- ❖ Vs. 7: God decides to destroy man and much of what he was given dominion over – Gen. 7:4
- ❖ Vs. 8-9: But Noah found grace
 - Was a just man – a good man
 - Perfect - upright, operated with integrity
 - WALKED WITH GOD - (halak: in pace, in sync)
 - His great granddad Enoch (5:22) walked w/ God and was translated - Heb. 11:5
Psa 37:23 KJV The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.
 - Grace: Grace: chen (khane): 1) favour, grace, charm; 1a) favour, grace, elegance; 1b) favour, acceptance
- ❖ Inspiration in the midst of pending devastation – vs. 11-13
 - Vs. 11-13: God warns of the need to heed His inspiration
 - Some change is brought about by knowing we have no choice
- ❖ We are inspired to obey God in spite of what others are doing – vs. 14
- ❖ Hope for all of us, even those who don't move at first with God's inspiration
 - Notice Lot in Gen. 19:4-17