



**Hilton Head Island**  
community church

## **“Words of Life” - Devotional Guide**

### **Day 1: Stir Up Your Gift**

Have you ever watched a campfire slowly die down to glowing embers? Without attention, those embers will eventually turn cold and lifeless. But with a gentle stir and some fresh air, they can burst back into flame. Paul reminds Timothy—and us—that the gifts God has placed within us need the same kind of intentional stirring. Each of us carries something unique that God wants to use. Maybe it's the ability to see potential in others when they can't see it themselves. Perhaps it's the gift of speaking life into dead situations or walking alongside someone in their darkest hour. Whatever gift God has given you, it's not meant to lie dormant. The beautiful truth is that your gift isn't just for you—it's for the people around you who desperately need what you carry. In a world filled with discouragement and negativity, your stirred-up gift could be the very thing that changes someone's trajectory. When you choose to activate what God has placed within you, you're not just blessing others; you're stepping into the fullness of who God created you to be.

Today is the day to stop letting your gift gather dust. It's time to fan those embers back into flame and watch how God uses what He's given you to impact the lives around you.

Bible Verse - 'For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.' - 2 Timothy 1:6

Reflection Question - What specific gift has God given you that you've allowed to grow cold, and what would it look like to actively stir it up starting today?

Quote - Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you imagine church, what God could do. If you and I actually decided we're going to stir up the gift that God has given to each of us.

Prayer - Father, help me recognize the gifts You've placed within me and give me the courage to stir them up. Show me how to use what You've given me to bless others and bring glory to Your name. Amen.

### **Day 2: Called to Come Alongside**

Picture someone you care about stuck in a deep pit, calling for help. Most people would stand at the edge, shouting down encouragement or advice. But a true encourager does something different—they climb down into the pit, not to get stuck, but because they know the way out. This is the heart of biblical encouragement. The Greek word *parakaleo* doesn't just mean to cheer someone up from a distance. It means to come alongside, to strengthen, to urge forward. It's about entering into someone's struggle and walking with them toward freedom.

We all know people who are tired, overwhelmed, or feeling stuck in life. They might be struggling with insecurity, facing overwhelming circumstances, or feeling forgotten by others. These are the moments when God calls us to be more than cheerleaders—He calls us to be companions in the journey.

When you come alongside someone in their dark moment and say, "You're not alone, God is not done, keep walking," you're embodying the very heart of Christ. You're not just offering empty words; you're offering your presence, your strength, and your faith when theirs feels weak.

The world is full of people standing at the edge of pits, but it's desperately short of those willing to climb down and show the way out.

Bible Verse  
'If someone has the gift of encouraging others, they should encourage.' - Romans 12:8

Reflection Question  
Who in your life is currently in a 'pit' and needs someone to come alongside them rather than just cheer from the sidelines?

Quote - Encouragers come alongside you when you're in a dark moment, and they say, hey, you're not alone. God is not done. Keep on walking.

Prayer - Lord, give me eyes to see those who are struggling and the courage to come alongside them in their difficult moments. Help me be a source of strength and hope to others. Amen.

### Day 3: Seeing What Others Miss

Have you ever watched a skilled quarterback throw a pass? They don't throw the ball to where the receiver is—they throw it to where the receiver will be. This requires vision, timing, and faith in the receiver's potential to get there.

This is exactly what encouragers do in people's lives. They don't just see who you are today; they see who you're becoming. They have this remarkable ability to spot potential that others miss—potential that you might not even see in yourself.

Think about Barnabas and how he saw something in the newly converted Saul that others couldn't see. While everyone else saw a former persecutor of Christians, Barnabas saw a future apostle. When John Mark failed and others wrote him off, Barnabas saw a young man who could still make a significant impact for the kingdom.

Encouragers are 'good finders.' They actively look for the best in people and call it out. They see past current failures, present struggles, and temporary setbacks to the person God is shaping you to become. When you feel like giving up, they remind you that now is not the time, today is not the day.

God has placed people in your life who need you to see their potential and call it out. Your words of faith in their future could be the very thing that helps them believe in themselves again.

#### Bible Verse

'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.' - Hebrews 10:24

Reflection Question - Who in your life has potential that others might be missing, and how can you help them see and pursue what God has placed within them?

Quote - Encouragers bring out the best in others. They call people out to be their best. They call out the best in people. They see what others miss in people. They see what others miss in themselves.

#### Prayer

Father, give me Your eyes to see the potential in others that they cannot see in themselves. Help me be someone who calls out the best in people and leads them toward their God-given purpose. Amen.

### Day 4: Instilling Courage in Others

The word 'encouragement' literally breaks down to 'in courage'—to instill courage within someone. When life beats people down and circumstances overwhelm them, they don't just need sympathy; they need someone to deposit courage back into their hearts.

We live in a world where people give up too easily. They abandon jobs when things get difficult, walk away from marriages when conflict arises, or quit pursuing their dreams when obstacles appear. But encouragers step into these moments and say, "Stay in the game. Be encouraged. Work in that courage." Sometimes the most powerful thing you can offer someone isn't advice or solutions—it's your presence. When someone is in the pit, they often need to know they're not alone more than they need words. Your willingness to sit with them, to stay in the game with them, can be worth more than gold. Think about the people in your life who have instilled courage in you during difficult seasons. They probably didn't have all the answers, but they had something more valuable—they had faith in you when you couldn't find faith in yourself. They reminded you that your current chapter isn't your final story.

Now it's your turn to be that person for someone else. Look around and find someone who needs courage instilled back into their heart.

Bible Verse - '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.' - Hebrews 10:25

Reflection Question - When you think about the most discouraging situation you're currently facing, what would it mean to have someone instill courage in you, and how can you offer that same gift to others?

Quote - The word in the English language literally means encouragement. It means in courage. It literally means to instill courage within someone.

Prayer - Lord, help me be a source of courage for those who are ready to give up. Give me wisdom to know when to speak and when to simply be present. Use me to instill hope in hearts that have grown weary. Amen.