

# Positively Speaking

By Mark Wilson

11/06/09

## Encouragers Needed! Enlist Today!

"When you're down and out, something always turns up," quipped Orson Wells, "and it's usually the nose of your friends." Often, when people most need support and encouragement, they are least likely to get it. "Laugh, and the world laughs with you," the old proverb says, "Cry, and you cry alone."

We all need a good boost of encouragement occasionally. We need to be appreciated. Actress, Celeste Holm, once said, "We live by encouragement, and die with out it; slowly, sadly and angrily." William James observed, "The deepest principle of human nature is the craving to be appreciated."

With this in mind, what is your "E. R. -- Your "Encouragement Ratio?"

How often do you focus on building others up and expressing your sincere appreciation? It's nice to know that when you help someone uphill, you're a little nearer the top yourself!

There are plenty of discouraging people in this world. The critics will gladly point out your flaws, and complain about your shortcomings. It doesn't take much intelligence to be a fault finder.

Encouragers, on the other hand, are a rare breed. Wherever they go, they inspire hope and joy. I am a better person today because of the encouragers who have believed in me.

Each of us has the ability to encourage others. Yet, we are often so consumed by our problems and needs that we forget to reach out beyond ourselves. We have the ability – but are we willing?

Who is your greatest encourager? Why? What qualities does this person possess that makes him/her different? Would somebody answer this question with YOUR name? How can you become a better encourager in your relationships?

How are things going in your life right now? Are you an encourager at home, or are you more of a battle axe, a raging bull, a nag, a walking Vesuvius – ready to blow at any moment?

Being an encourager requires daily commitment. You have to be consistent. If you're positive one day, and then a grouch the next, I can guarantee that you're not much in the encouragement department. You must focus on the positive and now allow the bugs on the windshield of life to distract you.

Encouragers are the medics on an emotional battle field. They move from person to person with a healing touch – bringing the balm of hope. The very survival of some depends on these "spiritual medics."

There's a short supply of encouragers today. They're needed more than ever. The harvest is right, but the workers are few. Why not enlist for duty? The need is too great to delay. You have the ability to make a difference. Are you willing to step in and bring a blessing? A hurting world needs you!

Hayward Wesleyan Church

10655 State Rd. 77 · Hayward, WI 54843

Phone: 715-634-4613 · Fax: 715-634-7823 · Website: [www.haywardwesleyan.org](http://www.haywardwesleyan.org)