

# The Gift of Exhorting

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BIG SANDY, Texas—When reading the book of Romans, believers find that the apostle Paul mentioned seven gifts in his letter to the Romans. They are listed in Romans 12:6-8.

The fourth gift listed is the gift of exhorting (verse 8).

There are many scriptures in the Old and New Testaments about this subject. This article lists only a few of those scriptures in an effort to encourage your interest in studying the subject in greater detail.

## **To exhort**

*Acts 2:40*—"And with many other words he [Peter] testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' "

*Acts 14:21-22*— "And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.' "

*Acts 15:32*—"Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words."

*1 Timothy 5:1*—"Do not rebuke an older man [elder], but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers."

*Hebrews 3:13*—"But exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

*Hebrews 10:24-25*—"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

## **To beseech**

*Romans 12:1*—"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

*1 Peter 2:11*—"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul."

*2 John 5*—"And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another."

### To encourage

*Acts 4:36*—"And Joses . . . was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus."

*Acts 11:22-23*—"Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord."

*Acts 16:40*—"So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed."

### To comfort

*2 Corinthians 1:3-7*—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation."

*2 Corinthians 2:6-7*—"This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow."

*2 Corinthians 7:6-7, 13*—"Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more . . . Therefore we have been comforted in your comfort. And we rejoiced exceedingly more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all."