



**Fellowship of Companies for Christ International**  
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**Fellowship of Companies for Christ  
Greater Hartford Chapter  
September 2, 2009**

- Opening prayer
- Introductions
- Praise reports
- Today's topic: ***Where do YOU go for encouragement?***

There's a common expression that has much truth: "it's lonely at the top." Leadership and ownership are difficult and not easily understood by employees, customers, suppliers, the public, even our family and friends.

—**Encourage** (getting courage) and its derivatives appear 66x in the Bible. It's a basic human emotional need. We tend to think of encouragement as positive, *but it's not all good or constructive*. On the receiving end, you can be encouraged to feel, think and do good, do nothing, or do evil. On the giving end, you can encourage others to feel, think and do good, do nothing, or do evil. For example, people can be encouraged to be greedy, selfish, idolatrous, deceitful. Sounds like many business schools today! See Psalm 64:5 and 1 Cor 8:10.

—If God is truly part of your daily life, then the kind of encouragement He wants for you breathes **LIFE and VITALITY**. He wants to be, and must be, your Ultimate source of courage. But you're the gatekeeper.

—*Why go to God and not to people?* Because people are imperfect, insensitive, selfish, busy, unreasonable, preoccupied, with unstable hearts and impure motives. People are prone to hurt you, disappoint you and discourage you. *It is wiser and healthier to focus on getting your encouragement "straight from the top,"* viewing encouragement from other people as "gravy." **God is the source of 100% pure encouragement.** See Josh 1:9, 1 Sam 30:6, Ezra 7:28b, Rom 15:4-5, 2 Cor 1:3-4, 2 Cor 7:6, 2 Thess 2:16-17, Is 40:28-31.

—As we are continually filled up with encouragement straight from the Lord, then we are empowered and equipped to become an **outpouring of encouragement to others**. See 1 Corinthians 8:1b, Colossians 2:2.

—**Are you known as an encourager** to family, friends, colleagues, employees, suppliers, and the public? If not, why not? You can't give what you don't have inside. How much does it cost? Example of 2008 Called To Work Conference in NJ and "An Encouraging Word" column in the *Journal Inquirer*.

—**Some helpful resources:** Winning with Encouragement (WWEministries.org); 5 Love Languages / 5 Languages of Apology in the Workplace (FiveLoveLanguages.com); Theophostic Prayer (Theophostic.com).

- Next meeting on September 16 (place tba) @ 7:30 am (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)
- Upcoming events/news: 9/4 coffeehouse; 9/9 Get Motivated in Hartford; 9/11 New Canaan Society meeting in North Haven; 9/11 and 9/12 musical events in West Hartford, Hartford, and Agawam; FCCI conference on 9/27-10/1; 10/17 ISI Women in Bloomfield.
- Closing prayer