

Introduction:

“Everyone needs someone at some time to give them something in order to become the someone they long to become.”

To “Inspire” - Webster’s Definition:

- Literally – to breathe, blow upon, infuse with life.
- To prompt, arouse, or produce a thought or feeling.
- To stimulate or impel to some creative or effective effort.
- To cause, guide, communicate or motivate as by divine or supernatural influence.

4 Keys to inspiring others:

1. Motivate them! →

2. Teach them! →

3. Affirm them! →

4. Correct them! →

Paul models inspirational encouragement:

1. Paul motivates, “Your lives please God!”

*¹Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.
²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.*

2. Paul teaches, “God demands sexual purity!”

*³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;
⁴that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,
⁵not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;
⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.
⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.
⁸Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you His Holy Spirit.*

3. Paul affirms, “Your brotherly love is awesome!”

*⁹Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.
¹⁰And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.*

4. Paul corrects, “Be responsible, make an impact!”

*¹¹Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you,
¹²so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*

Summary:



- We must motivate before we instruct.
- We must instruct before we affirm.
- We must affirm before we correct.
- We must correct with the motivation in view.

Application: You really can live a life that pleases God!

Discussion Questions:

1. Who in your relational network needs some inspirational encouragement?
2. Which of the 4 Keys to Inspiring would be most appropriate to use at this time in their life?
3. Discuss God's view of sex: List three reasons (from the text) why God clearly prohibits sex apart from marriage. How do these prohibitions reflect God's concern, protection, and love for us?
4. How did Christ speak to your life today? What would obedience to His Word look like?