



**We blossom  
under  
praise like  
flowers in  
sun and  
dew; we  
open, we  
reach, we  
grow.**

Encourage

I stopped the other day along an isolated stretch of highway near Centre, Alabama to take a photo of a cotton field. My photos of the cotton did not turn out like I had hoped, so I began to see what else was around. I photographed the highway, objects in the ditch, the sky, and the birds. And just when I was about to give up, I look and right at my feet I behold this flower politely stretching out her peddles toward me. As I look at the flower I could almost hear her whisper my name.

The nonverbal communication between this beautiful blossom and me was clear. She told me that even though she was not a large cotton field, she believed I could take a nice photo of her. She believed in me. She told me even though I had failed to capture the splendor of the snowy cotton, I could still take a nice photo. And the encouragement I received from this small flower, motivated me to keep trying. Encouragement is like oxygen to the soul.

Is there anything better in life than to hear someone say, “You did a great job” ? A few simple words of recognition, a pat on the back, a look and a smile; these always do much to lift a discouraged soul. Look at your parents, you spouse, your coworkers and your friends, they do many things each day to enrich your life and we fail to even acknowledge it.

So, who needs a word of encouragement from you today? Think about it. Look around you and remember that a kind word costs no more than a critical one. Yet day after day, we pass by people all around us who do things to make our lives better and never stop to say, “thank you” , or “I appreciate what you do” . Go ahead, express your gratitude and hand out some encouragement today. What do you have to lose?

**Something to think about:**

- ❖ The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.
- ❖ More people fail for lack of encouragement than for any other reason.
- ❖ Tell a man he is brave, and you help him to become so.
- ❖ He climbs highest who helps another up.

The guy who listens to the flowers  
Rickey Moore