

What Written Notes Can Do

No doubt it has happened to you, as it has for me.

You are sitting at your desk contemplating a very serious decision you must make and wondering what the correct course of action should be. Or you are troubled over the illness of a family member or the passing of a friend.

Suddenly, your thoughts are interrupted with the arrival of the mail. And in it is a card from someone for whom you have great respect. It is a handwritten note of appreciation or acknowledgement of some event or milestone in your life.

Your day changes. The outlook of your day just became a bit brighter, and there is a little more spring in your step.

I have always believed in the power of a written note of encouragement. Emails are nice, and more and more, they seem to be the way of the present and future for communication of thoughts. In my view, however, there is something more special about a handwritten note.



Written notes don't have to come from someone famous to be encouraging. A kind word given from the heart is always well received. If you've never mastered the practice of sending handwritten notes to people, then you are encouraged to try this oft-neglected way of winning with people.

In his book, *The Power of Encouragement*, Dr. David Jeremiah said, "Written encouragement comes directly from the heart, uninterrupted and uninhibited. That's why it's so powerful." Haven't you discovered that to be true?

Walt Whitman, 19th Century poet, essayist and journalist, struggled for years to get anyone interested in his poetry. He became very discouraged. Then he received a note that read: "Dear, Sir, I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift of *Leaves of Grass*. I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed. I greet you at the beginning of a great career."

It was signed by Ralph Waldo Emerson, essayist, philosopher, poet and nationally known lecturer.

What might have happened to Whitman had Emerson not invested in him by writing those kind words? That note was like fresh air to Whitman, who breathed in that encouragement and was inspired to keep writing.

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And you do not need to be a professional writer to make a difference in someone's life. Just taking the time to write is evidence of your willingness to invest in that person.

Therefore encourage one another with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:18 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter