

“What a Gift!”

Acts 4:32-37, 9:19-31, 11:22-24, 15:36-40

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**Encouragement - related to the word
“Paraclete”, which describes the ministry of the
Holy Spirit to come along side of!**

Discouragement means to deprive of courage or confidence; to dishearten.

¹³But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

God's will for His church and His children is to be encouragers! To encourage one another to press on and to live and work in His will and ways!

Every believer needs 3 relationships in his life:

- 1. A Paul - a spiritual mentor**
- 2. A Timothy - someone you are discipling and passing biblical truth onto**
- 3. A Barnabas - someone who is running the race of faith with you , an encourager!**

Barnabas' name means "Son of Encouragement."

It was his nickname.

His birth name was Joseph (Acts 4:36)

³²And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was

upon them all. ³⁴For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales ³⁵and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called

Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),³⁷ and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The Gift of Encouragement

1. Encouragement comes through “Giving!” (Acts 4:34-36)

- Barnabas’ attitude was, what’s mine is yours, I’ll share it.**
- Stewardship is lordship, lordship is stewardship.**

The Gift of Encouragement

2. Encouragement comes through “Helping!” (Acts 9:19-31)

- Barnabas took Saul/Paul to church**
- Saul/Paul needed help to take his next step in his faith story.**

**When's the last time you brought
someone to church?**

The gift of encouragement can be costly, time consuming and inconvenience you.

**When you go to church look out for someone.
Be discerning. Don't automatically sit with
friends. Look for a visitor or someone who may
be lonely.**

¹⁹So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. ²⁰But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began

speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.²² The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.²³ Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God,

he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord;²⁴ for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.²⁵ And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul;²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an

¹¹Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

2 Timothy 4:11

“There are no inconsequential moments in one’s days. There are no chance encounters. There are no irrelevant people. There is no inconsequential task.”

- Alister Begg

entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Barnabas recognized the activity of God and rejoiced in it! Don't resist the work of God's Spirit, celebrate it!

The Gift of Encouragement

3. Encouragement comes through “Investing!” (Acts 15:36-40)

- Barnabas didn’t see a problem, but potential.**
- Barnabas disciplined John Mark through encouragement.**

Sermon in a Sentence:

“Encourage one another day after day”

- Hebrews 3:13a

Application:

1. If every Believer needs at least three relationships in his or her life, Which one(s) are you missing? Do you have a Paul, Timothy, and a Barnabas? Pray about each one and begin to apply the principles of discipleship.
2. In what ways are you experiencing discouragement in your Christian life? How are you struggling and where do you need help? Share your struggle with a Paul or Barnabas in your life.
3. When you go to Church, Look for someone to encourage. Ask God to show you how you can encourage someone this week, either by a gift, visit, prayer or phone call.
4. Faith@Home: Discuss how God has used that gift of encouragement in your life and the impact it had!