

Be An Encourager

I. BARNABAS THE SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Acts 4:36

- A. Barnabas is an example of a man who knew how to -
give courage, hope, and embolden the hearts of those who really needed help.
- B. While others were suspicious of Paul,
Barnabas staked his own reputation on the quality of Paul's commitment.

Acts 9:26, 27

- C. He knew how to encourage the church leaders to accept Paul as one of their own.
- D. He looked beyond the surface to the depth of Paul's love, determination, and faith.
- E. In Acts chapter eleven we can see the fruit of Barnabas encouragement.

Acts 11:22-26

- Trust the Lord to help you offer support for those who need encouraging.
- Ask God to help you reach out to people struggling with discouragement.

II. BARNABAS TRUSTED GOD FOR PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT.

Acts 11:24a

- His trust in God enabled him to inspire others.
- We cannot change the hearts of people.
Unless our encouragement originates from the power of the Holy Spirit it will not prevail.
- Ask the Lord to help you find your encouragement and inspiration through
personal devotions, scriptural meditation and praise filled prayer.

III. BARNABAS HAD CREDIBILITY FOR THREE REASONS.

Acts 11:24a

1. He was regarded as a good man.
Indicating his compassion and kindness to all regardless of their background.
2. He was full of the Holy Spirit.
Indicating that he was in complete submission to the will of God
3. He was strong in faith.
Indicating a close walk with the Lord.
Ask the Lord to help you to grow in your credibility.

IV. BARNABAS REFUSED TO YIELD TO DISCOURAGEMENTS

He went on two missionary journeys, despite a sharp disagreement with Paul.

Acts 15:36-39

Barnabas did not remain content to just encourage Christians,
he carried the good news of Christ to those who needed it most.

V. BARNABAS KNEW HOW TO GIVE PEOPLE SECOND CHANCES.

Thankfully, Barnabas gave John Mark a second chance.

We can thank Barnabas for encouraging John Mark to write the gospel of Mark.

The gospel of Mark has encouraged billions.

Barnabas wouldn't give up on someone whom Paul had given up on.

Do not be too hasty to give up on people because of a few disappointing episodes.

Remember, how many times the Lord has given you second chances.

Ask the Lord to help you encourage those who need a second or third chance
A great friend is someone who steps in when everybody else abandons us.