



Make Me a Barnabas

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- Heb. 10:23-24 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”
- Eph. 4:15-16 - “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love”

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- How do great Bible characters motivate a nation to serve God soundly and from the heart?
 - 2Chron. 30:18-20, 22-23, 25-27
 - 2Chron. 32:6-8

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- What is a Barnabas?
 - Acts 4:36-37 - “And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.”

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- Acts 11:22-26 - “Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. 26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

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- “Instruction does much, but encouragement everything.” (Goethe)
- “Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he can and should be and he will become as he can and should be.” (Stephen Covey)
- “How would your life be different if you walked away from gossip and verbal defamation? Let today be the day you speak only the good you know of other people and encourage others to do the same.” (Steve Maraboli)

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- God wants us to use our ability to speak to bless others
 - James 3:9-10 - “With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”
 - “The tongue is the strongest muscle in the human body; you can use it to knock someone down or to pick someone up.”

Encouragement Is Vital To Local Churches

- Christians live in a warzone - Eph. 6:10
- Satan is a relentless adversary; we are outnumbered and in enemy territory - 2Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2
- Even the strongest, bravest soldiers sometimes deal with battle fatigue; but, Christians don't have a limited deployment. The battle is for life.
- Every Christian will eventually need encouragement. No exceptions

Encouragement Is Vital To Local Churches

- Nothing good comes from discouragement
 - It causes some to forsake the faith and return to the world.
 - It causes some to develop a negative attitude which impacts others.
 - It causes many to become inactive - Luke 11:23 - “he who does not gather with Me scatters”

Encouragement Is Vital To Local Churches

- Discouragement often infects entire local congregations - Gal. 5:9
 - They become comfortable with inactivity
 - They take no joy in worship or fellowship

Encouragement Is Vital To Local Churches

- Christians assemble to build one another up
 - 1Cor. 14:26 - "...Let all things be done for edification."
 - Heb. 3:13 - "But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

How To Become A Barnabas

- Maintain a daily relationship with God
 - Pray daily - 1Thes. 5:16-18
 - Meditate on God's word daily - Psalm 119:9-16
- Avoid discouragers

How To Become A Barnabas

- Seek spiritually uplifting, life affirming materials and experiences.
 - No one grows on the basis of the things he eliminates from his life - Luke 11:24-26 - Evil must be replaced by good
 - Read and watch spiritually uplifting, life affirming things.
 - Arrange your home, schedule, decoration, relationships, etc. with a view to more spiritual things
 - Look for relationships with other encouragers
 - Become an encourager

How To Become A Barnabas

- Develop eyes for one another
- Discipline ourselves to do for others as we want them to do for us.
- Don't wait for the opportunity to do some grand gesture
- Always follow through with the impulse to encourage
- Be quick to offer words of praise
- Be there for each other; the power of presence

Encouraging The Local Church

- Love them, and they will come to love each other - John 13:34-35
- Keep the group growing in the faith; learning builds confidence and security

Encouraging The Local Church

- Keep the group actively involved with each other
 - Worshiping together is part of it - Heb. 10:23-25
 - But the first century Christians were together daily - Acts 2:46, 5:42
- Find work to share together: spiritual and physical work parties
 - It is hard for busy Christians to stay discouraged, especially if they are busy helping others

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- Gal. 6:2 - “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
- “Be an Encourager: When you encourage others, you boost their self-esteem, enhance their self-confidence, make them work harder, lift their spirits and make them successful in their endeavors. Encouragement goes straight to the heart and is always available. Be an encourager. Always” (Roy Bennett)