



The Spirit-Filled Life Barnabas, the Encourager

Who Was Barnabas?

“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus,

whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”),³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” Acts 4:36 NIV

1. He was an early follower of Jesus.

a. Personal

b. Vocational

“Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?” 1 Corinthians 9:6 NIV

2. He was a spiritual leader.

a. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and an evangelist.

“He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.” Acts 11:24 NIV

b. He was an apostle and a missionary.

“But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this... “ Acts 14:14 NIV

c. He was a prophet and a teacher

“Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.”

Acts 13:1 NIV

d. He was an encourager to Gentile believers.

“News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.” Acts 11:22-23 NIV

e. He was humble.

1. His importance/visibility seemed to decline.
2. No longer Barnabas and Paul, but Paul and Barnabas, and eventually Paul and his company.

f. He was a spiritual mentor to two writers of the New Testament.

1. He was a spiritual mentor to and advocate for Paul. (13 books)
2. He was a spiritual mentor to and advocate for John Mark (his cousin, cf. Colossians 4:10). (Gospel of Mark)

3. He was an encouraging example for us.

Encouragement: παράκλησις (paráklēsis)

“calling alongside”, exhortation, admonition, urging, consolation, comfort, refreshment, persuasive speaking, instruction, admonition

Encouraging is a spiritual gift!

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your[a] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:6-8 NIV

Encouraging is a command for all!

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

Homework: Study the following Scripture passages and ask God how you might put them into practice.

Acts 2:40, 9:31, 16:40

Romans 1:12, 15:4-5

1 Corinthians 14:31

Philippians 2:1

1 Thessalonians 3:2, 3:7, 4:1, 4:18, 5:11, 5:14

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, 3:12 1 Timothy 2:1, 2 Timothy 4:2

Titus 1:9, 2:6, 2:15

Philemon 1:7

Hebrews 3:13, 10:25

Jude 1:3

Whom can you encourage today or this week?