# ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER: THE FOUNDATION TO MINISTRY

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

When was the last time you encouraged someone else? Let's look at 3 episodes in Acts to see the <u>role</u> of Barnabas and the <u>results</u> of him as an <u>ENCOURAGER</u>.

## A. THE ROLE OF AN ENCOURAGER

SCENE ONE: Acts 4:36-37 "36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet."

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We might call this encouragement of finances.

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SCENE TWO: Acts 9:26-28 "26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. <sup>28</sup> So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord."

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- Bringing him into the ministry at Antioch.
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We might call this encouragement of fellowship.

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Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." <sup>37</sup> Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. <sup>38</sup> But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. <sup>39</sup> And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup> And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches."

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We might call this encouragement in spite of failure

#### B. THE RESULTS OF AN ENCOURAGER

Mark wrote his gospel and it has 667 verses.

- When Matthew wrote his gospel most scholars believe that he used information from 607 of Mark's verses.
- When Luke wrote his gospel he included 80% of Mark's story.
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## Paul wrote 13 epistles.

• So you could say that simply by encouraging Paul and Mark that Barnabas influenced about half of the New Testament.

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I want to be an encourager like Barnabas!

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Here are some ideas for you to be an encourager.

1. Give something.

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- 7. Show up.

C. HOW ENCOURAGEMENT WORKS.

The Cross = Involvement from beginning to end.
Involvement is contrary to the flesh.

The reason people don't want to get involved is they don't want to risk a comfortable and pleasant relationship.

1 John 4:18 "Perfect love drives out all fear..."

Inspired by LOVE Not from layers

Directed toward FEAR *To reduce hidden fear* 



When you speak <u>from</u> layers, or defensive patterns it generates **PRESSURE**.

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Words aimed <u>at</u> layers brings PRESSURE.



Words aimed <u>at</u> fear brings ENCOURAGEMENT. Diminishes fear, increases faith.

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Encouragement depends on a loving motivation (energy in motion) as well as the ability to discern the needs of another accurately. People are valuable and people are fearful.

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- Faith is killed by fear.
- Faith is built by love.
- Fear is killed by faith.