



Encouraging Grace

PATRICK ORMSBY

“When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.”

Psalm 94:19 NASB

“Now Joseph, a Levite and native of Cyprus who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles, which interpreted means Son of Encouragement...”

Acts 4:36 AMP

“Seems like when people found the Lord
they got their names changed - Jacob to
Israel, Simon to Peter, Judas to mud!”

- Keith Green



- Believers = Sons of God
- “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” - Galatians 3:26 NKJV
- James and John = ‘Boanerges’ = Sons of Thunder (Mark 3:17). Due to their aggressive and fiery nature, not unlike the prophet Elijah, they, wanted to call down fire on the Samaritans.
- Jesus Son of God - 100% God
- Jesus Son of Man - 100% Man
- Barnabas son of encouragement

“Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again - my Saviour and my God.”

Psalm 42:11 NLT

Discouragement sucks the courage out of you;

Encouragement puts courage into you.

Paraklesis (Greek) = exhort, encourage

Primarily: "a calling to one's side," and so, "to one's aid," hence denotes:

- A. an appeal, "entreaty" e.g. 2 Corinthians 8:4
- B. encouragement, "exhortation" e.g. Romans 12:8; Acts 4:36
(RV="exhortation", AV="consolation")
- C. "consolation and comfort" e.g. Romans 15:4

Vines Complete Expository Dictionary

- Parakletos = legal term refers to the Holy Spirit, Advocate, counsellor and comforter.

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”

I Corinthians 14:1-5 NKJV

Barnabas also means son of prophecy.

- Prophecy is not fore-telling (that is, predicting future events).
- Prophecy signifies the speaking forth of God's mind and his counsel.
- Much of OT prophecy was predictive in nature.
- Prophecy is not necessarily, or even primarily, used to fore-tell the future - rather a declaration of what cannot be known by natural means.
- It is forth-telling of the will of God - whether it be in reference to the past, present or future.

Prophecy:

- “the human report of a divine revelation”
- “...speaking forth in merely human words of something God has spontaneously brought to mind.”

- Dr Sam Storms



- The purpose of the gift of prophecy is to edify, exhort, and comfort the body of Christ in love.
- As Ken puts it, to: “build up, stir up and to cheer up”.
- Love undergirds the gift of prophecy - and a loving heart is an encouraging heart.

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.”

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.”

Acts 4:32-37 NIV

“That is why the Levites have no share of property or possession of land among the other Israelite tribes. The LORD himself is their special possession, as the LORD your God told them.”

Deuteronomy 10:9 NLT

Barnabas was a man of great influence, though:

- Not an apostle (not numbered among the apostles)
- Or a deacon - Acts 6

Notable deacons:

- Phillip - preached the gospel to the Samaritans
- The Ethiopian (Acts 8)
- Stephen - the first Christian martyr (Acts 7)

“Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen’s death travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews. However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.

When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw this evidence of God’s blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.”

Acts 11:19-24 NLT

“When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw this evidence of God’s blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.”

Acts 11:23-24 NLT

“And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.”

Acts 9:26-28 NKJV

“So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.”

Acts 9:28 NKJV

“Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.” Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.”

Acts 15:36-40 NKJV



**WITH
GREAT POWER,
COMES GREAT
RESPONSIBILITY.**

SPIDERMAN

“Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.”

2 Timothy 4:11 NKJV

Encourage

ONE

ANOTHER

