

# Acts

**Acts 4:36 (NIV)** “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement)”

## Encouragement is more than hitting the LIKE button!

### 1st – Encouragers are generous without strings attached.

**Acts 4:36 (NIV)** “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement),<sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.”

### 2nd – Encouragers believe people really can change.

**Acts 9:23 (NIV)** “After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him,<sup>24</sup> but Saul (Paul) learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him.”

**Acts 9:25-27 (NIV)** “But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.<sup>26</sup> When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.<sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.”

**Acts 9:27,28 (NIV)** “(Barnabas) told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.<sup>28</sup> So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.”

### 3rd - Encouragers call people to not give up.

**Acts 11:20-21 (NIV)** “Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.<sup>21</sup> The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.”

**Acts 11:22,23 (NIV)** “. . . they sent Barnabas to Antioch.<sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.”

### 4th - Encouragers help people develop their potential.

**Acts 13:2 (NIV)** “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”

**Acts 14:1 (NIV)** “At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.”

### 5th - Encouragers believe that failure isn't final.

**Acts 15:36-38 (NIV)** “Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.’<sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,<sup>38</sup> but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.”

**Acts 15:39 (NIV)** “They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus . . .”

**II Timothy 4:11 (NIV)** “Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.”

## Three ways you can encourage someone this week:

*Hebrews 3:13 (NIV) “. . . encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”*

### 1st - Give someone a timely compliment.

**Proverbs 15:23 (NIV)** “. . . how good is a timely word!”

**Proverbs 12:25 (NLT)** “. . . an encouraging word cheers a person up.”

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

### 2nd - Text someone a Scripture verse.

**Romans 15:4 (NIV)** “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

### 3rd – Point them to Jesus.

**Romans 15:5 (NIV)** “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus . . .”