

# Encourage One Another – Hebrews 3:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

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## Introduction

Who doesn't need an encouraging word from time to time? Who does not love to have the knowledge that someone will stand by your side and help you, even in your darkest hour? Encouragement is so valuable.

*Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. (Proverbs 12:25 ESV)*

*Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. (Proverbs 16:24 ESV)*

*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. (Proverbs 25:11 ESV)*

We need to become people of encouragement. How do we do that? Let us take a look at a man known as Mr. Encouragement to see what we can do to better encourage one another...

### I. Encouragers Do Something – Acts 4:32-37

Barnabas is not just a name he wears but an action he practices. And from this story we understand that being an encourager means that you would practice generosity. We can do that with our treasure, talents, or time. How willing are you to use your gifts to encourage others?

*But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:13 NASB)*

### II. Encouragers See Something – Acts 11:20-26

When Barnabas arrives at the church in Antioch all he sees is God's grace and it made him so glad. That is exactly what encouragers see and look for in others. God's wonderful grace!

*Bright eyes gladden the heart;  
Good news puts fat on the bones.  
(Proverbs 15:30 NASB)*

This verse says that if you have bright eyes it will gladden your heart because encouragement is not something that only blesses others but also yourself. It not only transforms them it changes you. And then guess what it says the church did? And they added to their number daily.

*Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11 NASB)*

### **III. Encouragers Help Others To Be More Like Christ – Hebrews 10:24-25**

Barnabas sees something in Saul, and he puts His own reputation on the line. He puts a respected reputation on the line to merge with an awful reputation so that Paul can be better than his worst day. He focuses on the future, not the past. Have you ever had someone who believed in you that you were that you are more than your worst moment? Encouragers see it and they believe it.

*and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25 NASB)*

#### **What Now? How can I become a better encourager?**

1. Pray for God to make you an encourager.
2. Study Barnabas and ask God to make you more like him.
3. Make encouragement a daily discipline.
4. Pray for God to show you who to encourage.
5. Use scripture to encourage others with.
6. Be specific in your encouragements.
7. Regularly encourage our elders, deacons, preachers, teachers, and workers.
8. Pray that God would create a culture of encouragement here at Central.
9. Be wise. Be careful when encouraging the opposite sex.
10. Get started today!

*Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*