

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE

By James M. Duncan, Pastor

March 31, 2019

“Three Principles Of Encouragement”

Acts 4:32-37; 11:22-26

Last Sunday I spoke about the **“Power of Encouragement”** from Hebrews 10:19-25, and that **encouragement** means *“to come along side”* It has to do with comfort, exhortation, instruction.

By the way did you hear of the **Seven Things That Will Not Encourage Your Pastor.**

I love the story about an Atlanta journalist, who met an old farmer during quail season in Georgia.

Some of the greatest success stories of history have followed a word of encouragement from a loved one or a trusting friend. When most people who’ve achieved great things tell their stories, they mention those who encouraged them along the way.

The New Testament tells of a man who distinguished himself as an encourager, a motivator of others. The man’s name was **Barnabas** and his story is wrapped up in the exciting details that describe the first-century church. He is described as “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith” (**Acts 11:24**).

As we survey the life of **Barnabas**, we find three transferable qualities or principles that we can build into our own lives.

**1. ENCOURAGERS ARE *PERFORMERS*,
NOT *PRETENDERS***

You see this contrast in Acts 4:34-37; then in Acts 5:1-2 with **Ananias and Sapphira**. It is the contrast between these two “acts of love” that forms the basis for our principle, Encouragers **perform** while others pretend.

The second principle is:

**2. ENCOURAGERS SEE *POTENTIAL*,
NOT *PROBLEMS***

We see this principle in **Acts 9** after Paul was saved and how Barnabas treated him. Look at Vs.26-28. One of the tell-tale signs of a Christian who has the gift of encouragement is to be found right here. He champions the underdog he sees Potential, not Problems. We see this also with John Mark in **Acts 15:36 - 40**.

The third principle is:

**3. ENCOURAGERS CARE MORE ABOUT *PEOPLE*,
NOT *PROMINENCE***

The third “Barnabas principle” for encouragers is illustrated in the eleventh chapter of Acts. Barnabas had been commissioned by the church in Jerusalem to go as her representative to the Gentile church in Antioch. Look at Acts 11: 23-26.

Foremost in Barnabas’s mind was the growth of these new believers. He wanted them to have the best possible instructor. That’s the heart of an encourager! **Encouragers care more about people than prominence.**

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