

The Kingdom of Give - Living in creative goodness

- **What we do between our salvation and the second coming.** Our salvation is assured.
- As people with resurrected spirits, we bring the resurrection life of Jesus to our world.
- Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20: 21
"We give as freely as we have received (from the Lord)."
Matthew 10:8
- "We are the cooperative friends of Jesus—Living in creative goodness—for the sake of others through the power of the Holy Spirit." (Todd Hunter - Christianity Beyond Belief)

This teaching: To Give ENCOURAGEMENT like Barnabas as we go about our daily living. To make the effort and take courage to strike up conversations with people as we go. Work at getting better at small talk. Willing to listen to their story and having an ear to the Holy Spirit—that we might get a word of encouragement for them. God is for them and so are we.

Believe Jesus' is giving you the gift of encouragement (prophecy). "Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy... He who prophesies speaks to men for their up-building, and encouragement and consolation." I Corinthians 14:1,3

Overview Acts 4:32-37

"All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had. And the apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great favor was upon them all. There was no poverty among them, because people who owned land or houses sold them and brought the money to the apostles to give to others in need. For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed BARNABAS (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles for those in need."

1-V32 Jesus prayed, "My prayer for all of them is that they will be ONE, just as you and I are one." (John 17:21) His prayer was answered. In the first church at Jerusalem "All the believers were of _____ heart and mind."

2-V32 This oneness went beyond the agreeing with one another (the mind of Christ). They were free of greed. They felt that what they _____ was not their _____. It made them humanitarians. They saw other people's needs and _____.

3-V33 Jesus said that "If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:19-20) In this atmosphere, the apostles gave powerful _____ to the _____ of the Lord Jesus and God's great _____ was upon them all."

4-V34 There was no _____ among them because they brought _____ to the apostles to give to those in need. In the church "Mercy triumphs over judgment." James 2:13

It triumphs over God's judgment of us as undeserving. It triumphs over our judgment of others as undeserving of help. Should a nation of Christians feel the same way?

5-V36 A sterling example of the Lord's heart among them was _____, who was one of those who sold his property to help those in need. However, he was more than generous with money. He was generous with his words—so much so that he was famous for being an encourager – and nicknamed Barnabas - which means _____.

Acts 9:26-31

6. V26 Saul/Paul, one of the Pharisees (a great enemy of Christ and now His disciple) had hunted down and killed the Christians. The believers were naturally _____. They thought he was only _____ to be a believer in order to trap them.

7. V27 However, Barnabas was an encourager, a believer in the best in people. He brought Paul to the church and told how he had seen the _____ on the way to Damascus—and how he had witnessed Paul boldly _____ in the name of Jesus. So the apostles accepted Paul who was constantly with them and _____ on behalf of Jesus.

8. V31 In this wonderful environment the branches of Jesus bore much fruit. "The church had _____ throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it _____ in strength and _____. The believers were _____ in the _____ of the Lord and in the _____ of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 15:36-41

9.V36 Barnabas had accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey in the Mediterranean basin. Now Paul wants to go again and see how the new believers are _____. But he does not want to take _____, who had gotten homesick and _____ them half way through the first journey and not shared in their _____.

10.V38 Barnabas, (the Son of Encouragement) so strongly _____ with Paul that they _____. Barnabas took _____ and sailed to visit the churches in Cyprus and Paul took Silas and visited _____ the churches in Syria and Cilicia.

Word Study ONE - MARK - FEAR - PRETENDING - BARNABAS

1.4:32 _____ "We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and there is only one God and Father, who is over us all and in us all and living through us all." Ephesians 4:4-6

Jesus prayed "My prayer for all of them is that they will be ONE, just as you and I are one."

John 17:21 It is when people seek to agree in the Lord that great things are done.

2. 4:36 _____ means "Son of Encouragement." The Scripture says that next to love, the gift of prophecy (which is simply God's words of encouragement) is the greatest gift. Negative speaking cuts the heart out of people and divides community. Positive speaking overwhelms depression and creates motivation. Jesus is God's "Yes and Amen." "Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy...He who prophesies speaks to men for their up-building, and encouragement and consolation." I Cor. 14:1,3

3. 9:26 _____ Barnabas as an encourager could see "the God" in people. In particular, he knew when a person was "Christ transformed." So he interceded on behalf of Paul—telling about Paul's personal encounter with Christ and vouching for him.

4. 9:31 _____ Along with peace, strength, growth and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the first church had the "fear of the Lord." It is true that knowing God's perfect love casts out fear of God's judgment. I John 4:18 On the other hand, the Scripture says "But God will pour out His anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and practice evil deeds." Romans 2:8

5. 15:27 _____ Again Barnabas the encourager stands for a second chance when he so strongly speaks on behalf of John Mark that he and Paul disagree and separate. Barnabas was right --Mark grows up. Later Paul writes to Timothy, "Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me." 2 Timothy 4:11 Mark is the one who wrote the memoirs of Peter called the "Gospel of Mark."

What does this Scripture say to you?
