

*"Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.
Encourage me, and I will not forget you."*
William Arthur Ward

An Encourager No One Forgets
Hebrews 3:12-13

Hebrews 3:12-13 (NIV)

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

How to spot an "encourager":

- Highly relational and a "people person."
- Quickly responds to others needs.
- Forgive easily and give others the benefit of the doubt.
- Eager to see someone's spiritual potential.
- Often well-liked and fun to be around.

Acts 4:36-37 (NIV)

"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."

Four Marks of a "Barnabas" encourager:

I. Sacrificial Giving on behalf of Others

Acts 4:32-37 (NIV)

All the believers were one in heart and mind. ... they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. ... Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

II. Recognizing Potential that Others Miss

Acts 9:26-27 (ESV)

And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

III. Helping others grow in their Walk with Jesus

Acts 11:20-24 (NIV)

Some of them went to Antioch and began telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. A great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. News of this reached the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 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. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

IV. Eager to Restore Those who have Fallen

Acts 15:36-40 (NIV)

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers where we preached and see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

7 ways to be a "perfect" encourager:

- Tell someone how you see them growing in Christ.
- Let someone know that you are praying for them.
- Share an encouraging Scripture.
- Tell someone how they have encouraged or blessed you.
- Remind someone that God loves them and He is working on their behalf.
- Let someone know that you have missed seeing them in church.
- Encourage someone to be faithful when things are difficult.