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## BE A BARNABAS

We all need encouraged. We can easily grow discouraged in our work and development as Christians, so when we find ourselves around those who encourage us, it is a welcome refreshment to us and a blessing to find those who seem to naturally dispel that needed trait for others. Barnabas was one of those natural encouraging individuals that the Apostles actually dubbed him, who was born with the name Joseph, "Son of Encouragement," or "Barnabas." "Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the Apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet," Acts 4:36-37. This amazing act of kindness and generosity to help support other Christians in need was not merely a single act of humility but one of

constant behavior which showed his desire to lift up those around him and make sure others had what they needed to succeed. What seems to be a mark of consistency in his encouraging behavior is his ability and willingness to play the second fiddle very well to make sure others are supported to perform at their absolute best. Barnabas did this on several occasions with Paul. After Paul is converted and the Christians at Jerusalem are hesitant to believe he truly has changed his ways and is actually a fellow believer in Jesus and a loyal devoted Christian, Barnabas goes out of his way to use his influence and reputation to hold up Paul as a great example of a defender of the faith, praising his attributes and commending him to be received and exalted as a talented

and needed evangelist for the cause of Christ. "When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of the Lord. And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death. But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus," Acts 9:26-30. Later, even after Barnabas isn't chosen among the special appointed men to take care of the dispute among the neglected widows (Acts 6:1-6), Barnabas accepts his role to support the new church at Antioch. Upon his arrival and skilled work in developing the congregation, a great number of disciples are added to the work because of his diligent efforts. Yet rather than attempt to use this success as a means to prove his value or greatness in the kingdom as a

prominent worker to be looked up to by others, he again takes a lower seat, bringing Paul to Antioch and encouraging others to be influenced and taught by his skilled teaching and preaching. "So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord. And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for

an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch," Acts 11:19-26. Early on, in their work together as missionaries spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and establishing congregations of loyal disciples, Barnabas takes the lead role, paving the way for this new developing promising evangelist, Saul, as Barnabas' name is listed as the prominent speaker in the very beginning. But notice how things change, as Paul's preaching becomes more dominant and influential, Luke makes us aware of the shift between Barnabas and Paul, where Paul's name eventually gets listed first, indicating that Paul begins to take on more of the leading in the preaching and speaking while Barnabas takes on a more supportive and encouraging role, one he consistently accepts as his preferred role of one who supports and uplifts and helps to encourage those around him. "And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders," Acts 11:30. "And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled

their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark," Acts 12:25. "While they were ministering to 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 13:2. "...this man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God," Acts 13:7. As Paul begins to sway various audiences with his preaching, Paul begins to be listed as the prominent speaker when both names are listed. "As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God," Acts 13:42-43. From here on out, it is Paul who becomes the lead speaker when both names are listed, and Barnabas gladly takes the supportive role of encouraging, even seeking at one point to leave Paul and help develop the young and up and coming John Mark to encourage him as well (Acts 15:36-41). What a great example of encouragement! – D. Ruegg

# FIFTH SUNDAY PHOTOS

Every fifth Sunday of the month, we try to highlight some of great things happening around our congregation that were captured through photography. If you happen to get a good picture of one of those great things, please feel free to post it on our Facebook page, tag us on Instagram (@wellsburgchurch), tweet us at @wellsburgchurch, or e-mail us at minister@wellsburgchurchofchrist.com with a little description of what is happening in the picture.



There was some crazy competition this year at our Bible Trivia booth where three top scores tied for 4,000!



Thanks to all the help setting up our Bible Trivia booth this year at the fair! There was a steady flow of interested competitors and visitors to the booth and we pray for the seed that was planted to take root!



Our Vacation Bible School this past summer was a great success thanks to all the volunteers and teachers who gave so much of their time and talents! The singing each evening was such a joy!



We are excited to have a new sister in Christ, Whitney Bowman! Whitney attended one evening during our gospel meeting with Tony Huntsman and obeyed the gospel after hearing a compelling lesson on Baptism!