

More than ever we need a spirit of encouragement to fill our lives, church and city. We all need encouragement and we can all become better encouragers. To encourage someone is MORE than saying affirming words that build a person up. This weekend we will be looking at being a son/daughter of ENCOURAGEMENT. Joseph in the book of Acts, was such an incredible encourager that the Apostles nicknamed him, Barnabas (Son of Encouragement).

Historically, the word 'encourage' comes from the English and French - to be 'In'-'Courage'. As such, an encourager is someone who provides courage (support, admonition) for others to be, become someone to fulfil something. Barnabas encouraged the Apostles in many ways. Firstly, he sold property and gave the proceeds of the sale to the apostles to use for the work of the ministry. In that way he provided courage for the apostles to do the work of the ministry (e.g. the food program in Acts 6).

The most common word for encouragement in the Bible is the Greek, 'parakaleo' — 'para' meaning 'beside, near, with, alongside', and 'kaleo' meaning 'to call or summon'. A 'paraclete' is someone called alongside another to counsel, encourage, help, and bring comfort.

The Holy Spirit is our ultimate encourager - His name is the PARAKLETOS! (Our counsellor, who is IN us and with us always - our bodies are the dwelling place/ tabernacle of the Holy Spirit);

Whatever is true,
whatever is noble,
whatever is right,
whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,
whatever is admirable,
whatever is excellent,
whatever is worthy of praise,
think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

HOLY SPIRIT DECLARATIONS

God is revealing deep things about himself to me. (1 Cor. 2:10)

The Holy Spirit is explaining spiritual realities to me. (1 Cor. 2:13)

I am experiencing an outpouring of revelation knowledge. (1 Cor. 2:13)

The Holy Spirit has made his permanent home in our church. (1 Cor. 3:16)

The Holy Spirit is making my heart into his home. (Rom. 8:11)

I have become God's inner sanctuary.

The Holy Spirit is giving life to my physical body.

Every day I am opening spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit is giving me to encourage and comfort those around me. (1 Cor. 12:11)

I am an equipped, competent, life-giving minister of God's new covenant of love and power. (2 Cor. 3:6)

Every moment of my life the Holy Spirit is calling out to me that I am God's true child, and God is my true Father. (Gal. 4:6)

I am moved by the Holy Spirit. I move with the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:14)

I am soaring above the domination of the law and experience the full freedom of the Spirit of grace. (Gal. 5:18)

The Holy Spirit whispers into my innermost being, telling me I am God's beloved child. (Rom. 8:16)

The Holy Spirit's intense cravings are overpowering any sinful cravings I am tempted by. (Gal. 5:17)

The Holy Spirit is strengthening me in my weakness. (Rom. 8:26)

The Holy Spirit, who knows my deepest longings, is bringing my life into perfect harmony with God's plan. (Rom. 8:26-27)

What the Holy Spirit is doing in me is better than anything I could have ever thought or imagined. (Rom. 8:28)

The Holy Spirit is unveiling within me the unlimited riches of God's glory. Supernatural strength is flooding my innermost being with God's divine might and power. (Eph. 3:16)

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