

# INSIGHTS

## THE POWER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

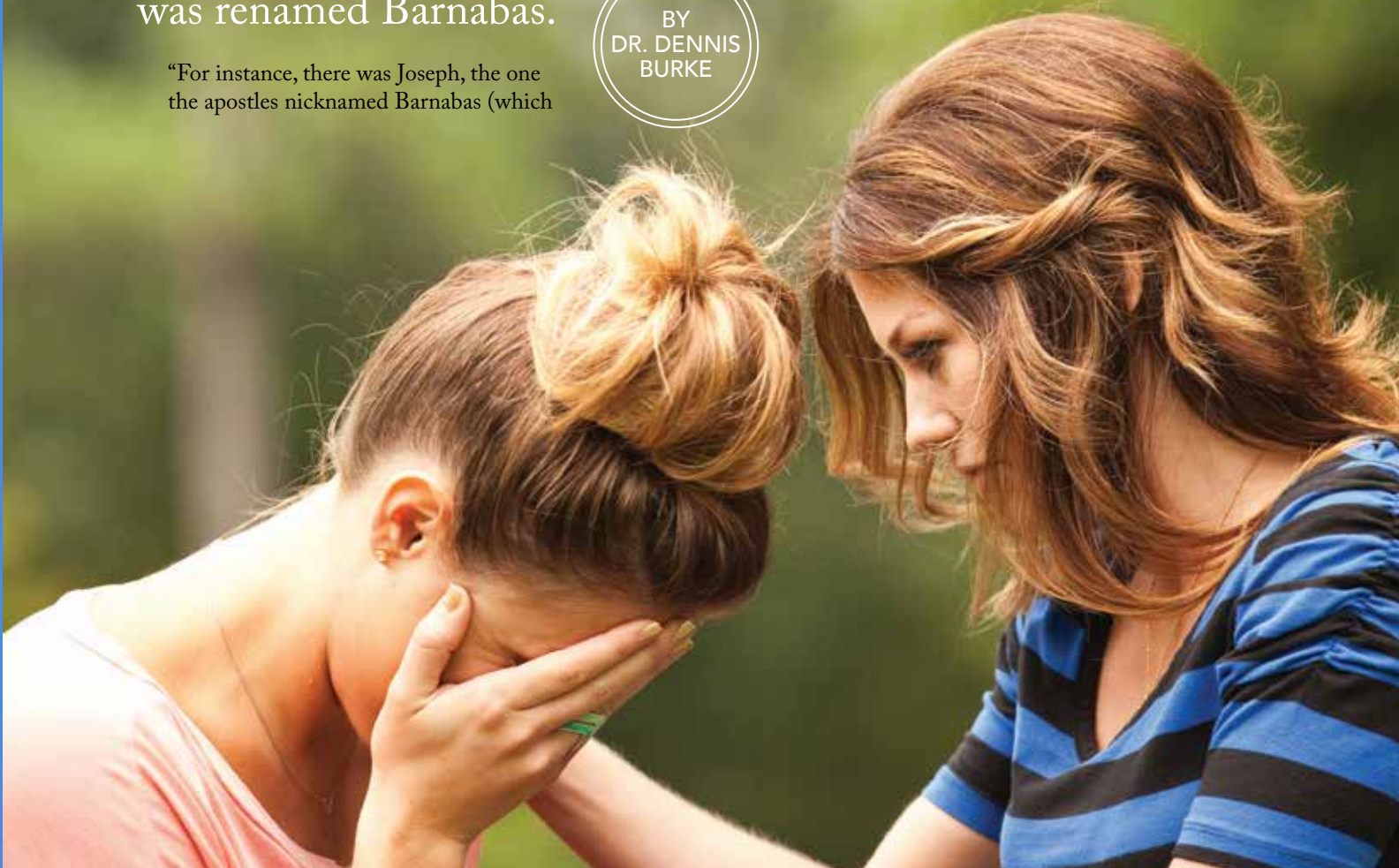
One of the unsung heroes of the New Testament is a man who was given a name by the apostles in Acts chapter 4. His name is Joseph but was renamed Barnabas.

means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus" (Acts 4:36 *NLT*).

Barnabas was part of the Early Church and was such an encourager that the apostles just decided to call him "Son of Encouragement." »

BY DR. DENNIS BURKE

"For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which



What an outstanding quality to be known for—the inclination to continually and freely give to people the encouragement they need! Some people are known for correcting or criticizing, but Barnabas was known for being an encourager.

Everyone needs encouragement. When courage is running

low or when troubles and big decisions weigh heavy on people's souls, a word of encouragement will lift them up.

It's significant that hidden in the word "encouragement" is the word *courage*. It takes courage to walk with God the way Scripture describes. The Christian life is really not for the fainthearted.

It requires uncomfortable changes, often-difficult decisions, and the willingness to face our own need for God's help.

God has given us all

we need to stand firm and courageous in the face of every challenge. Yet when the pressure is on, we can feel lacking what we need. That's why an essential ingredient that helps us sustain our courageous stance is *encouragement*.

The English word "courage" comes from the French word for *heart*. Real courage comes from the *heart* and not the head. That inner voice of the Holy Spirit will elevate your outlook and renew your focus if you will listen to your heart.

In First Corinthians 2:9, Paul sheds light on the answer to receiving supernatural help when dealing with difficult challenges:

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

This statement, quoted from Isaiah 64, reveals a key in how God's Kingdom operates in our lives. When we *see* in faith the results of faith, inwardly *bear* God's words of promise, and *embrace* the truth of His willingness to work in our lives, we can receive all He has prepared for us.

At times we're all tempted to let negative circumstances and the enemy's strategies waged against us pull us down. But no matter what kind of challenge we're facing, we can choose to put God's Word in our eyes, ears, and hearts. As we do, that buoyancy of courage will bring us back to a place of strength.

Regardless of how long you walk with God, when the storms of life rage and the battles are intense, a word in season is like fresh rain falling on your desert. Even the Apostle Paul pointed out in his second letter to the Corinthian church how he was encouraged at a time when he was in an intense battle.

When we face the pressures of a satanic attack, it would make all the difference in the world if we didn't feel so alone.



“When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus” (2 Corinthians 7:5-6).

The game that Satan plays is not just to bring battles to you on the outside. Even more important to him is to cause fear to rise on the inside. If the battles you engage in can cause you to yield to fear, you will lose ground quickly. And what is the fear? It can be a variety of things—the fear of failing, of being found out, of letting people down, of people’s disapproval, or a myriad of other things. Once you let go of your confidence and courage, you are sinking and soon to be sunk.

What did Paul say alleviated the fears he was battling on the inside? The encouragement from a son in the ministry—Titus. Early in his ministry, Paul had Barnabas, and later he had Titus. Both served as encouragers in Paul’s life.

To be an encourager is one of the most spiritual activities you can do. Hebrews 13:3 (AMPC) says, “But instead warn one another every day, as long as it is called Today...” And Paul wrote the church in Rome, “I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours” (Romans 1:11-12 NLT).

Our words carry a powerful impact. We can fill our words with love, faith, and encouragement—or we can fill our words with anger, hatred, fear, and

discouragement. We can make it a habit to use our words to build people up, find the good, and heal. What we say really does matter.

We each experience times when we really need a Barnabas or Titus ourselves. When we face the pressures of a satanic attack, it would make all the difference in the world if we didn’t feel so alone.

How many times has it seemed like no one had a word to lift you up when you needed it? Where was *your* Barnabas? Where was *your* Titus?

In times like that, the example of David can be your encourager. A tragic event took place before David became king in Israel. He was still fleeing from King Saul, along with several hundred men loyal to him and their families.

One day while David and his men were away from their families and city, an enemy came and stole all their wealth, captured their women and children, and burned all their dwellings. When David and the men returned, they found only ashes and destruction. Nothing remained; even their families had been taken.

First Samuel 30:6 (AMPC) tells us how David was affected and then how he responded:

“David was greatly distressed, for the men spoke of stoning him because the souls of them all were bitterly grieved, each man for his sons and daughters. *But David encouraged and strengthened himself in the Lord his God.*”

When no one else will encourage you—*talk yourself into it!* Announce it boldly!

1. You are an overcomer.
2. You are a child of the living God.



When no one else will encourage you—talk yourself into it!



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Scottsdale, AZ 85255 | 480-964-4463

Living Word Mesa | 3520 E. Brown Road  
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Salisbury, MD 21804 | 410-749-8834

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Visalia, CA 93291 | 559-733-2744

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**Conroe, TX : August 27**  
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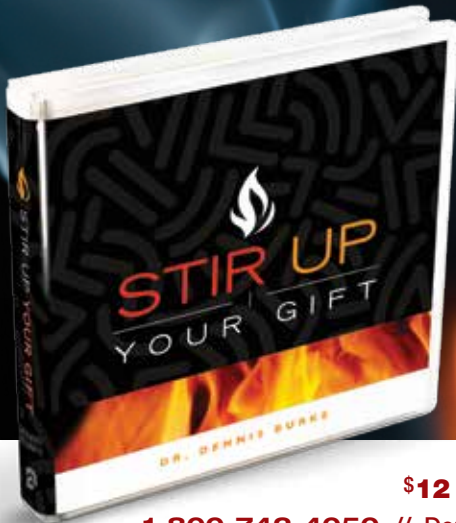
**Firebaugh, CA : September 10-11**  
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Firebaugh, CA 93622 | 559-659-2571

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3. You are loved and favored by God.
4. You are healed and made whole.
5. You are strong and established in Christ!

Every word you speak will lift, strengthen, and encourage you. Your words filled with His words will release the supernatural strength from your inner man to flood through your own thoughts, soul, and body.

Of course, no one can wrap it all up better than Jesus:

"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you]" (John 16:33 *AMPC*).

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