

Be An Encourager

By Dale D. Robins

“And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas (which is, being interpreted, the Son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, -- Acts 4:36

Right now, our society has been turned upside down and “sheltering-in-place” is the phrase of the day. For many of us, it is a real strain to be out of the mainstream and unable to do what we normally do. Some are making crazy speculative extensions of this state of affairs and predicting that we need to cancel Fourth of July activities. That is still about three months out! We just need to take a deep breath and wait to see what happens. We need encouragers to help us get from day-to-day or week-to-week. That would be the kind of person Barnabas was. Some translations call him the “*son of encouragement*” (Acts 4:36 – ESV).

Preachers and elders across the brotherhood are doing all they can to make videos and podcasts to keep the members in the loop, connected and growing. Great things are being done. We have had two baptisms since this virus began to dominate the news. There is more wonderful encouragement and lessons to be found on the internet than ever before. As social distancing continues on, it is easy for the encouragers to need encouraging. Who encourages the encouragers? I am thankful that so many of you have given kind feedback to me regarding the material we are putting out there. That means a lot and I pray many are benefitting. What can you do to provide encouragement?

1. One of the greatest things you can do is to utilize all the resources we are providing. Keep watching the Facebook posts. (The material is later uploaded to YouTube.) Keep up with the classes. Keep worshipping in your home. You must be at the helm of your faith, not the church, not others. You must keep feeding, using, and exercising your faith. There is no reason for you to become weak and indifferent toward your soul. Keep up with the mid-week Bible classes. Do your Daily Bible Reading. Preachers are putting a feast before you. It's up to you to pick up your fork and eat. Sadly, there will be some casualties in this crisis. Some will be spiritual as well those whom the Lord calls home.
2. Let the leaders know that you appreciate what they are doing. An email. A text. A card in the mail. Preaching to a camera with no audience is hard. Are people watching? Are we effective? Is this working? I have received so many words of encouragement, and that's so helpful. That encourages the encourager.
3. Keep using your teachers and preacher. It's hard to teach a class when no one is sitting there. Questions? Comments? Send those along. I am so proud of the success of the Zoom Interactive Bible Study Class that the teens are doing on Wednesdays with Barry! From what I have heard, it is really going well!
4. Keep praying. This should have been first on the list. Always pray that we all can remain strong and connected to each other and encouraged. Thank the Lord for those who are trying to make worship as “normal” as they can. God is in control and is to be worshipped and praised.

Let's continue to encourage one another!