

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ancient Words: Favorite Bible Words

Encouragement

Introduction:

1. Barnabas is one of my favorite men in the Bible.
2. I believe he was able to accomplish huge amounts of good, while at the same time, staying “behind the scenes.”
3. Barnabas was his nickname because it means “Son of Encouragement.”
4. In **Acts 13:43**, he encouraged some of the Jews and proselytes to “continue in the grace of God.”
5. I want to continue his spirit of encouragement.
6. I want to encourage you to...

Discussion:

I. CONTINUE WORKING FOR THE LORD

- A. As with most anything, it is easy to become tired and discouraged.
- B. Paul tells the Galatian Christians, “*Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.*” **Galatians 6:9**
- C. Though we may not be promised success every time, the Lord will bring an increase.
- D. But, He has no reason to bring an increase if His laborers aren’t willing to work.
- E. Don’t lose heart!

II. CONTINUE LOVING ONE ANOTHER

- A. I believe one reason the church, in general, isn’t growing is because the world doesn’t see the love its members share.
- B. **Acts 2:42-47** - These Christians...
 1. Devoted themselves to fellowship (v.42)
 2. Felt a common relationship/ bond (v.44)
 3. Shared their material blessings with those who didn’t have (v.45)
 4. Shared meals daily with one another (v.46)
 5. Shared their hope with others (v.47)
- C. This shows the great love they had for one another.

III. CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE THAT WAS GIVEN FOR US

- A. “The Passion of the Christ” was an eye-opening movie that portrayed the reality of the crucifixion.
- B. Let’s not let go of the feelings we had when we watched that movie or read through the crucifixion account.
- C. Let’s be motivated by what the Lord has done for us, and never forget the price He paid for us.

Conclusion:

1. Are you an encourager?
2. What does God want you to do?