

## **“Men of Barnabas”**

**Vision** – **“Restoring the wounded scattered on the battlefield of spiritual warfare...”**

**Purpose** – **Mentor, encourage, support, fellowship, team, strengthen, direct, trouble shoot, enjoy...**

**Objective** – **To offer help to young ministers of the Gospel, to offer help to struggling ministers of the Gospel, to encourage wayward ministers of the Gospel, and to encourage defeated ministers of the Gospel not to go AWOL.**

### **I. Who would classify as a “Man of Barnabas?”**

*“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” (Acts 4:36-37, NIV)*

*“When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.” (Acts 9:26-27, NIV)*

*“Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” (Acts 11:25-26, NIV)*

*“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.” (Acts 13:2-3, NIV)*

*“ The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.” (Acts 13:4-5, NIV)*

*“ From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.” (Acts 13:13, NIV)*

" Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches." (Acts 15:36-41, NIV)

**A. The prerequisites aren't as complicated as we would think.**

- 1. A man of Barnabas is one who has been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.**
- 2. A man of Barnabas is one who is convicted by Christ of the great need for this ministry.**
- 3. A man of Barnabas is one who is confident of his own calling from Christ.**
- 4. A man of Barnabas is one who is compelled to care for others.**
- 5. A man of Barnabas is one who is clothed in compassion for those who are hurting and struggling.**
- 6. A man of Barnabas is one who is committed to the cause of lifting up other brothers in kingdom work.**

**B. The requirements are very basic in this ministry.**

- 1. The man of Barnabas will agree to mentor another minister for a period of one year.**

- 2. One day a month the “Brother of Mark” will spend with the “Man of Barnabas” doing ministry with the “Man of Barnabas,” learning and being encouraged.**
- 3. For the remainder of the month the “Brother of Mark” has the privilege of calling for counsel, calling in times of trouble, or when he just doesn’t know where else to turn.**
- 4. Three times a month the “Man of Barnabas” will call to check on his “Brother of Mark” just to see how things are going.**
- 5. The commitment will be for one year. The purpose is to offer strength, help, and encouragement to any servant of God who is struggling and possibly considering going AWOL from the ministry.**

**C. The benefits of this ministry far out weigh the amount of time and effort we put into such a worthy task.**

- 1. Helping the hurting.**
- 2. Doing for others what you might have wished someone would have done for you.**
- 3. Strengthening the life and length of a minister’s calling by your experience and involvement.**
- 4. Creating unity among the brothers.**
- 5. Troubling shooting for young people who have not gone through what you have experienced but are about to.**
- 6. You might be giving the next “Paul” his start in a very hostile environment.**
- 7. Providing trained workers in the harvest field of our Lord and King.**
- 8. Offering healing to the wounded, binding up the broken, encouraging the discouraged, and it is all in the name of the Lord.**