

August 24, 2025

## The Power of Encouragement

*“Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be.”  
Encouragement is not just comfort—it’s a call to rise into our potential.” Ralph Waldo Emerson*

### READ Acts 4:32-36

- After reading Acts 4:32–36, imagine yourself as a member of the early church. What aspects of this passage would have encouraged your faith and strengthened your sense of purpose? Identify and describe at least four specific sources of encouragement.
- How did the unity of the believers impact their witness to the resurrection of Jesus?
- How does this passage speak to intergenerational generosity and grace?
- Who was named the Son of Encouragement?

### REFLECT Acts 9:17-31

- What role did Ananias play in Saul’s transformation?
- What do you think Barnabas saw in Saul?
  - In your opinion why was Barnabas different than the other disciples—unafraid of Saul?
- Saul begins preaching boldly despite opposition. What does this say about the kind of encouragement that fuels courage—not comfort?
- Who has been an “Ananias” or “Barnabas” for you—someone who saw your potential and encouraged you forward?
- In Acts 9:31 we see that the church grew. This was due to what factors?

### RESPOND

- Saul preached boldly despite threats. What message or truth are you being called to share with courage, even if it’s uncomfortable?
- How will you encourage someone in your family today?

*“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”*

- In what way will you encourage someone in your church?