

longed to God alone. In this passage, Barnabas and Paul performed a powerful miracle, and the people thought that they were gods. As soon as Barnabas and Paul understood what was happening, they quickly corrected the people.

Barnabas - Bold Defender of Truth

*“When therefore Paul and Barnabas had **no small dissension and disputation with them**, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.”*

(Acts 15:2)

Here we see Paul and Barnabas in a large dispute with those who claimed that circumcision was mandatory for salvation. This led to the meeting of the Jerusalem Council and a resolution of the circumcision issue.

Barnabas - Bold Defender of Men

*“And Barnabas **determined** to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. (38) But Paul **thought not good to take him** with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. (39) And the **contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other**: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;” (Acts 15:37-39)*

This well known dispute between Barnabas and Paul demonstrates Barnabas’ loyalty to people. Earlier, Barnabas defended Paul and

brought him to the apostles, and here he stands for John Mark (his cousin).

Barnabas - Diligent Worker

*“Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power **to forbear working?**” (1 Corinthians 9:6)*

In this passage, Paul is comparing Barnabas and himself with the other apostles. He notes that those apostles did not have to work to provide for their needs. Yet Paul and Barnabas often did.

Conclusions:

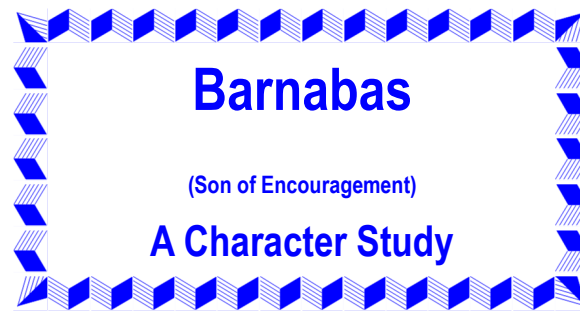
There is more in the Bible about Barnabas, but this should provide a good overview of his character. Early in Barnabas’ ministry he and Paul are referred to as “Barnabas and Paul” (with Barnabas mentioned first.)

His demeanor was such that the apostles called him “son of encouragement” (i.e. Barnabas). This is the name that most believers know him by.

He was generous, diligent, trustworthy, and bold. He also was known as a teacher.

So the next time you think of Barnabas, remember... it was **Barnabas and Paul** before it was **Paul and Barnabas!**

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By: Robert Dallmann

Barnabas - Son of Encouragement

*“Thus **Joseph**, who was also called by the apostles **Barnabas** (which means **son of encouragement**), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,” (Acts 4:36)*

In this single verse we learn some very important things about Barnabas. First, his name was **Joseph**, but the apostles called him **Barnabas**, which is **son of encouragement**. Evidently this Joseph was such an uplifting person that the apostles “nicknamed” him Barnabas.

We also see that Barnabas was a Levite, one set apart by God for ministry service. The tribe of Levi was to perform service to God in the Temple.

Barnabas - Generous

*“Having land, sold it, and brought the **money**, and **laid it at the apostles' feet**.” (Acts 4:37)*

Acts 4:37 is speaking of Barnabas as we can see from our previously quoted verse (above, Acts 4:36). In verse 37, we see that Barnabas

BARNABAS - A CHARACTER STUDY

had a piece of land and sold it. Then he gave 100% of the sales price to the apostles.

This type of extreme generosity in the early church led to God saying that in this church **no one lacked for anything**.

*“There was not a **needy person** among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold” (Acts 4:34)*

Barnabas - Trusted God for Miracles

*“But Barnabas took him, and **brought him to the apostles**, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how **he had preached boldly** at Damascus in the name of Jesus.” (Acts 9:27)*

In this verse we see Barnabas bringing the converted Paul to the apostles. Many did not trust this notorious persecutor of the followers of Jesus... but Barnabas knew that God saved Paul's life and that he was a changed man.

Barnabas believed in the miraculous (God could save even Paul) and testified of Paul's conversion in front of the apostles.

Barnabas - Missionary Before Paul

*“Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and **they sent***

*forth **Barnabas**, that he should go as far as Antioch.” (Acts 11:22)*

“Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul.” (Acts 11:25)

*“And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples **were called Christians first in Antioch.**” (Acts 11:26)*

Because of Peter's interaction with Cornelius and his household, Barnabas is sent as a missionary to Antioch. Barnabas stayed in Antioch for some time and then went to Tarsus to seek Paul.

As we have seen previously, Barnabas brought Paul to the apostles and later he went and brought Paul to Antioch. Barnabas and Paul spent a year in Antioch teaching many people.

It was in Antioch that believers in Jesus were first called “**Christians**”.

Barnabas - Highly Trusted

*“Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: (30) Which also they did, and **sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.**” (Acts 11:29-30)*

Barnabas and Saul are shown to be highly trusted. They were given charge of delivering a gift to believers in Judaea. Which was to be relief for a great world-wide famine.

Barnabas - A Prophet / Teacher

*“Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, **prophets and teachers: Barnabas**, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.” (Acts 13:1)*

*“So, **being sent out by the Holy Spirit**, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.” (Acts 13:4)*

Barnabas is listed in this passage amongst the prophets and teachers in Antioch. Clearly Barnabas and Saul were sent by the Holy Spirit.

Barnabas - Apostle and Glorifier of God

*“Which when **the apostles**, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they **rent their clothes**, and ran in among the people, crying out, (15) And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:” (Acts 14:14-15)*

Verse 14 tells us that Barnabas was an apostle. This fact is often overlooked by many Christians.

Like all of the godly in Scripture, Barnabas refused to receive worship or glory that be-