

**Key Scripture:**

Philippians 3:14 NASB

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Saul**

Acts 9:1-2 NLT

1 Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest.

2 He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there.

He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

**Barnabas**

Acts 4:36 NIV

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus,

whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement)

**Press On...with encouragement.**

✓ **Everyone** needs encouragement.

2 Corinthians 13:11 NLT  
 ...Encourage each other...

✓ **Encouragers are givers.**

Acts 4:37 ERV

Joseph sold a field he owned. He brought the money and gave it to the apostles.

✓ **The reputation of a discourager hinders people to believe.**

Acts 9:26 NLT

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer!

✓ **It takes courage to be an encourager.**

John 16:33 NASB

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.  
 In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

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**Press On  
 Encouragement**

**Be an encourager...**

**1. Affirm others in their gifts and calling of God.**

Acts 9:27-28 NLT

27 Then **Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul.**

He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus.

28 So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

**2. Celebrate the wins of others.**

Acts 11:21-23 NIV

21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. 22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

**3. Look for people to share your success with.**

Acts 11:24-26 NLT

24 Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith.

And many people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. 26 When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)

**4. Speak words of life.**

Acts 13:15 NCV

the leaders of the synagogue sent a message to Paul and Barnabas: "

Brothers, if you have any message that will encourage the people, please speak."

Romans 10:9-10 CEV

9 So you will be saved, if you honestly say, "Jesus is Lord,"

and if you believe with all your heart that God raised Him from death.

10 God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others.

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